
CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
11
ABI UMEDA


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Story and Art by Abi Umeda
Volume
11




Glossary of the Sea of Sand

The Mud Whale	A huge, drifting island-ship. Those in the empire who resisted giving up their emotions were exiled here, along with all their descendants.
Thymia	Telekinetic power derived from emotions.
The Marked	The 90 percent of the Mud Whale population who are thymia users. They are all short-lived.
The Unmarked	The members of the Mud Whale population who cannot use thymia. Unlike the Marked, they are long-lived.
Nous	A unique organism that obtains energy from peoples' emotions and gives people the power of thymia in return.
Nous Fálaina	A Nous that dwells deep within the Belly of the Mud Whale. Unlike other Nouses, it consumes the life force of humans rather than their emotions.
The Allied Empire	A large nation on the Sea of Sand that controls its citizenry through the Nouses and their absorption of emotions.
Daímonas	A legend from the empire. A being said to be able to destroy a Nous.




A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand

Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

After fleeing from the threat of the empire, the Mud Whale heads for Amonlogia in the United Kingdom of Suidelaisa, home to their guest, Rochalízo. But upon arrival, the Unmarked are captured by the duke, Dáchtyla.

Chakuro and the other Marked accept Duke Dáchtyla's demand to become indentured soldiers to ensure the safety of the Unmarked. However, negotiations are abandoned when the battleship Karcharías, led by Orca, appears on the horizon. In the midst of the battle that erupts between the empire and Amonlogia, the duke orders the Mud Whale to attack Karcharías. Chakuro and a team of other Marked children set off to rescue the Unmarked before they become casualties of the battle!

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."

Characters

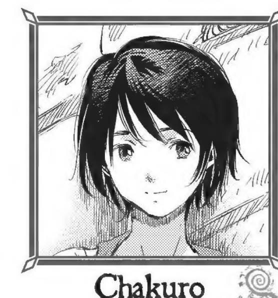
On the Mud Whale



Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)
A very powerful thymia user. He uses his awakening daímonas power to devastate the Amonlogian soldiers.



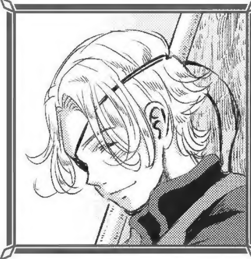
Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)
A girl from the Allied Empire who comes aboard the Mud Whale. She sneaks into Amonlogia by herself and skirmishes with the Insect Cage team.



Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)
The young archivist of the Mud Whale. In order to save the hostage Unmarked, he and a group of Unmarked infiltrate Amonlogia.



Ginshu
(Marked, 16 years old)
Ingenious life of the party. Accompanying Chakuro and his team.



Shuan
(Marked, 26 years old)
Former head of the Vigilante Corps. Accompanies Suou and the other Unmarked and is captured with them.



Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)
Mayor of the Mud Whale. A prisoner on Amonlogia after negotiations with Duke Dáchtyla broke down.

Amonlogia



Dáchtyla
Duke of Amonlogia and Rochalízo's father. He has imprisoned the Unmarked and is attempting to conscript the Marked as soldiers.

Allied Empire



Liontari
Accompanied Orca on the Amonlogia invasion as a jester. He doesn't get along with the Insect Cage troops.

Allied Empire



Orca
A high-ranking official from the Allied Empire and Lykos's brother. He invades Amonlogia in an amazing display of leadership.



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Chapter 44
A Sign from the God of Death


Day 26, month 11, year 93 of the Sand Exile.


We infiltrated the Amonlogian capital in order to rescue...
...the 38 Unmarked who had been captured by Duke Dáchtyla.
But while making our way through the streets of the town...
SHIVR SHIVR
...I saw someone unexpected.
GLARE
GULP



TH MP

CHAKKI, WHAT DID YOU SEE?

HURRY UP, YOU GUYS!


WE NEED TO GET TO THE UNMARKED!
IF WE DON'T HURRY, THEN HE...HE...

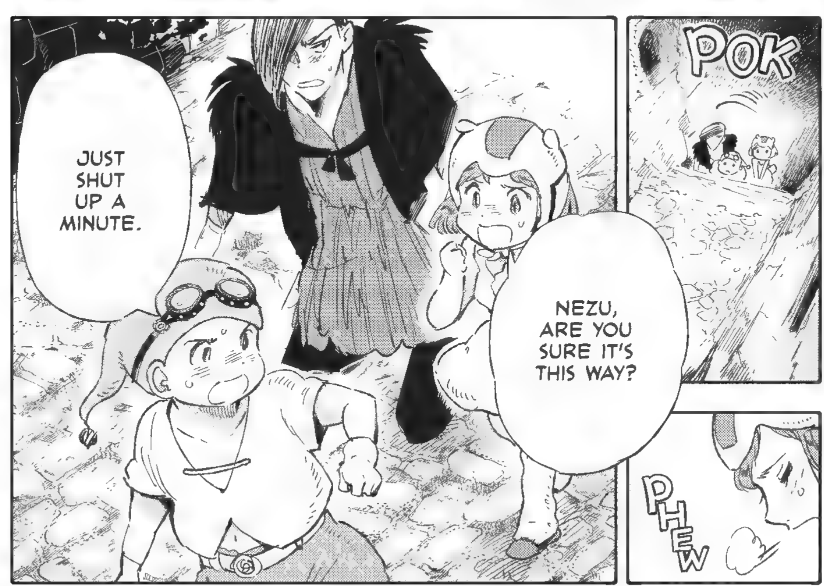

HE'LL GET TO THEM FIRST!
CHAKURO, WHO'S "HE"?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


CALM DOWN.


LISTEN TO ME, OUNI!
YOU CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY!


I HEAR YOU...
...SO CALM DOWN.
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S NO MATCH FOR ME.
OUNI...
I'LL GET HIM.


NO MATTER WHO HE IS.


JUST SHUT UP A MINUTE.
NEZU, ARE YOU SURE IT'S THIS WAY?
POK
PHEW







SHFF

HEY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHO ARE YOU?


DÓNTI.
WHAT'S WRONG?


THE GÍGANTAS SISTERS!


THE MUD WHALE KIDS?!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH?
HOW DARE YOU TURN ON US?!
JUST A MINUTE—FIRST, WHO'S THIS GIRL?
SHE'S THE MECHANIC WE WERE ALL TRAVELING WITH.
ME... CHA... NIC?

MASTER YANO?!



WAIT, WHAT...? NO.
YOU'RE... A... GIRL?



BUT... WAIT...
NO ONE SAID...

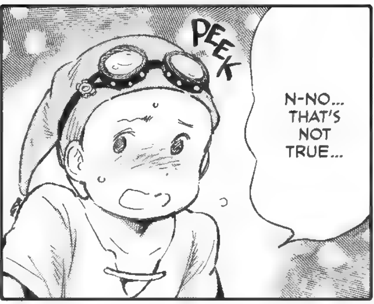


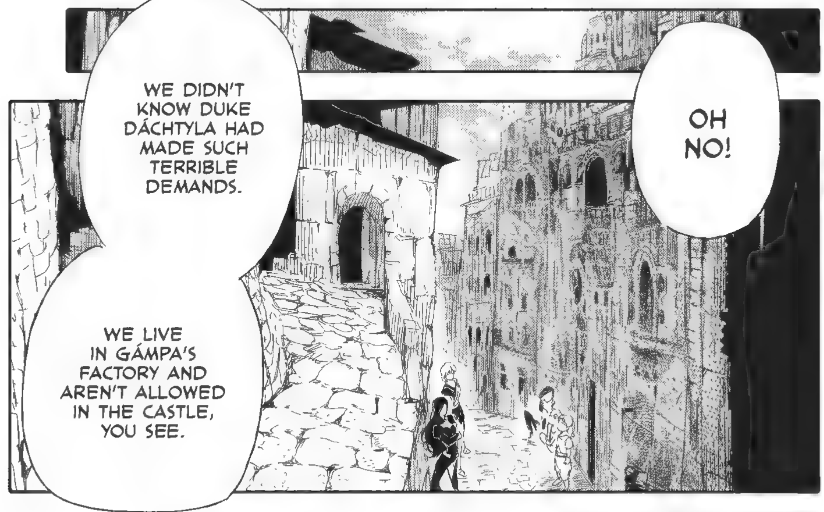
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
IT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME, YA KNOW.

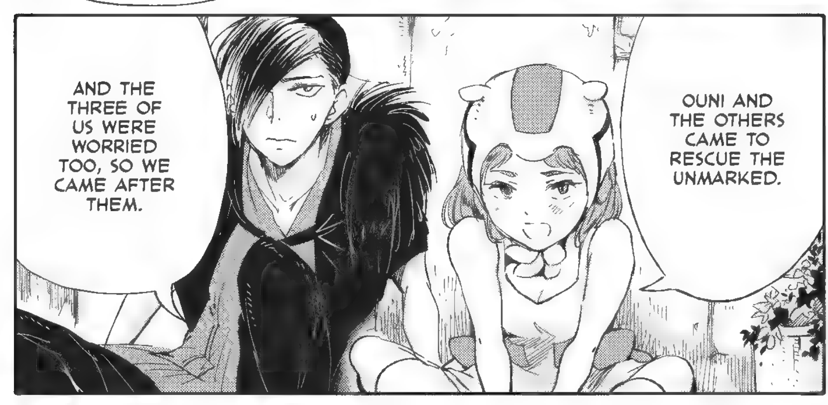


IT *DOES* MATTER...
YEAH, NEZU ISN'T GOOD WITH GIRLS.


HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF YOU?


PEEK
N-NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE...


OH NO!
WE DIDN'T KNOW DUKE DÁCHTYLA HAD MADE SUCH TERRIBLE DEMANDS.
WE LIVE IN GÁMPA'S FACTORY AND AREN'T ALLOWED IN THE CASTLE, YOU SEE.


OUNI AND THE OTHERS CAME TO RESCUE THE UNMARKED.
AND THE THREE OF US WERE WORRIED TOO, SO WE CAME AFTER THEM.



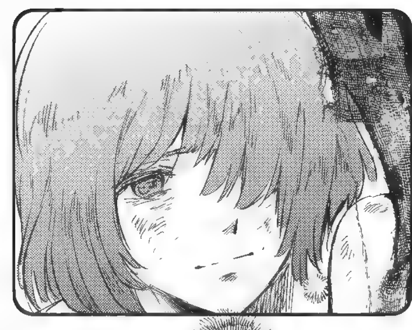
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SIR ROCHALÍZO ...
...WOULD DECEIVE EVERYONE ON THE MUD WHALE!

SOME PARTS OF HIM ARE BEYOND HELP...

...BUT AT HIS CORE HE'S A GOOD, COMPASSIONATE PERSON.

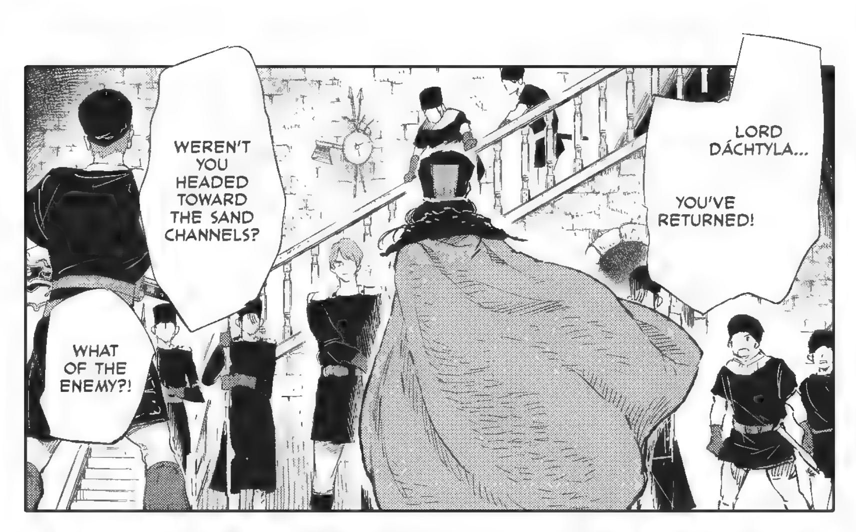

WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO BE SOLD AS CANNON FODDER IN A FARAWAY LAND...
...HE SOLD EVERYTHING HE HAD SO HE COULD BUY US.
AND HE'S TAKEN VERY GOOD CARE OF US SINCE.


WE TRAV-ELED WITH HIM...
...AND WHEN WE ARRIVED IN AMONLOGIA, HE LET US LIVE IN GÁMPA'S FACTORY AND KEPT US WELL FED.






SO IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ROCHALÍZO WOULD JUST...
...CRUSH PEOPLE'S HOPE LIKE THAT.



I RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT THE INVADERS ARE APPROACHING THE CASTLE, SO I RUSHED BACK.

LORD DÁCH-TYLA!!

THAT BOY WITH BLACK HAIR HAS BEEN SPOTTED, ATTACKING SOLDIERS AND DESTROYING BUILDINGS!

A- AND...

...A MAN WITH SILVER HAIR AND A TROOP OF CHILDREN ARE APPROACHING, LEAVING DEVASTATION IN THEIR WAKE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!


A BOY WITH BLACK HAIR...
A MAN WITH SILVER HAIR...

I DON'T SEE ANY YET.

WOOO...

WHAT ABOUT THE ENEMY?

I CAN'T SEE VERY...

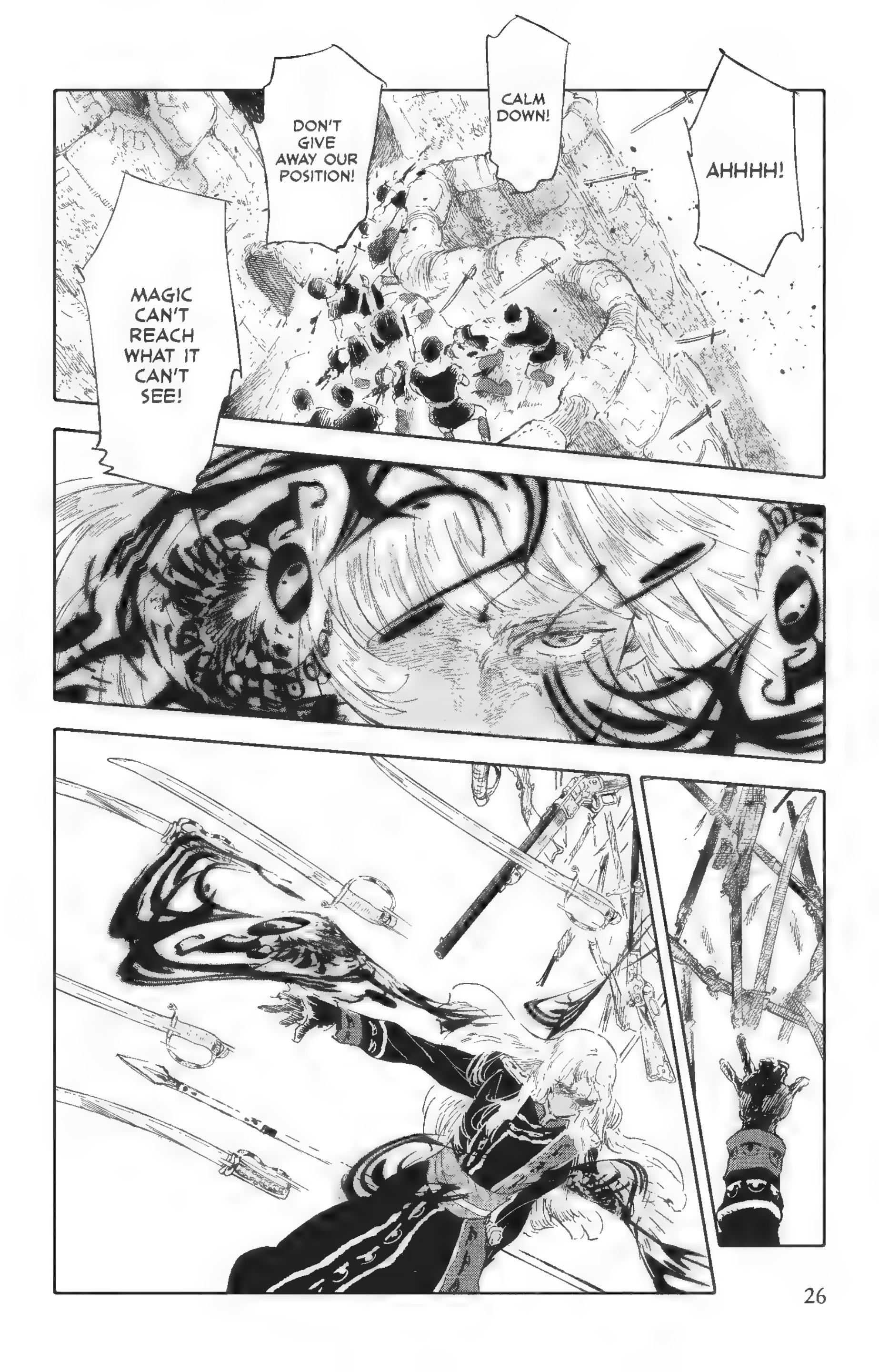
HMM...

I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A SMALL FORCE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ADVANCE SO FAR!






WHAT *IS* THAT?
GYU

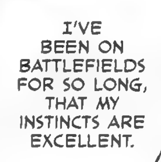

AHHHH!
CALM DOWN!
DON'T GIVE AWAY OUR POSITION!
MAGIC CAN'T REACH WHAT IT CAN'T SEE!

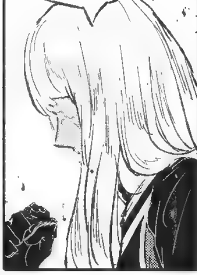
WE NEED TO BE INVISIB—AAAAH!

HELP!

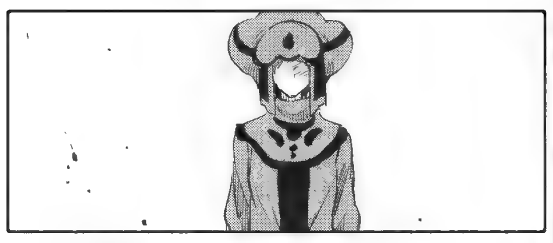


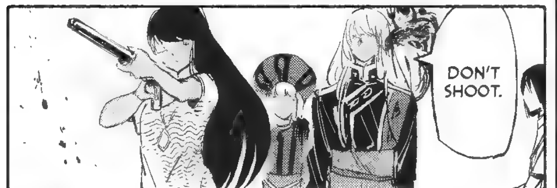
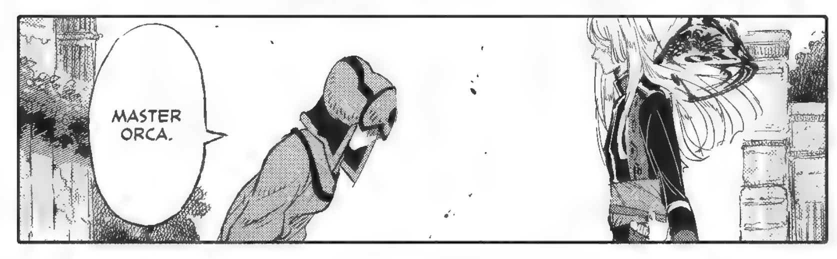










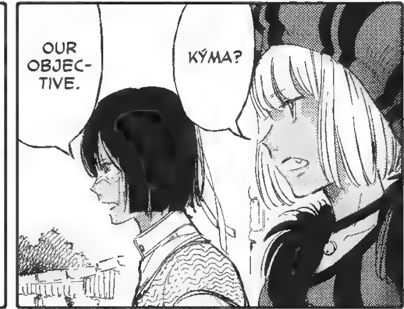

DON'T SHOOT.

MASTER ORCA.

I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU'RE WELL.

THANK YOU. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.


TAKE ME TO KÝMA.
OF COURSE. THAT'S WHY I CAME.

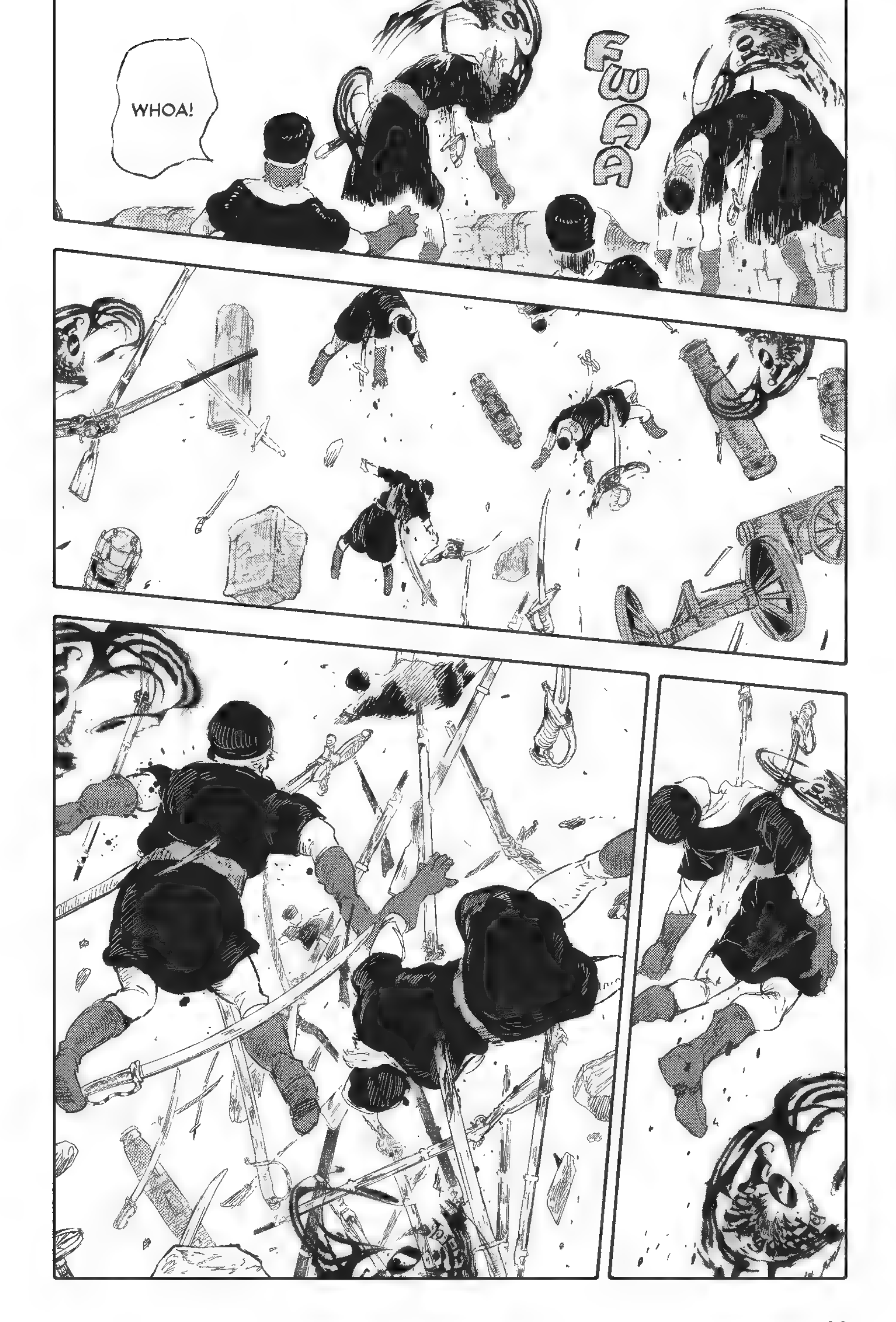

SO THIS IS THE SPY.


KÝMA?
OUR OBJEC-TIVE.


SECURING KÝMA IS THE MISSION THE EKKLISÍA SET FOR US.


AND *THAT'S* MORE IMPORTANT THAN FÁLAINA...?
HMPH.


SHAK
GASP!

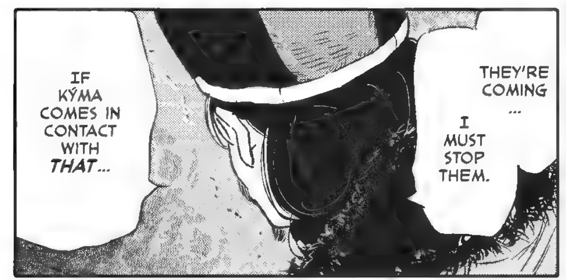

WHOA!
FWAAA


THIS IS THE SIGN THAT I AM THE GOD OF DEATH.


IF YOU FEAR DEATH, GET OUT OF MY WAY!


LORD DÁCHTYLA ...
... HURRY ...
YOU MUST HURRY TO KÝMA.

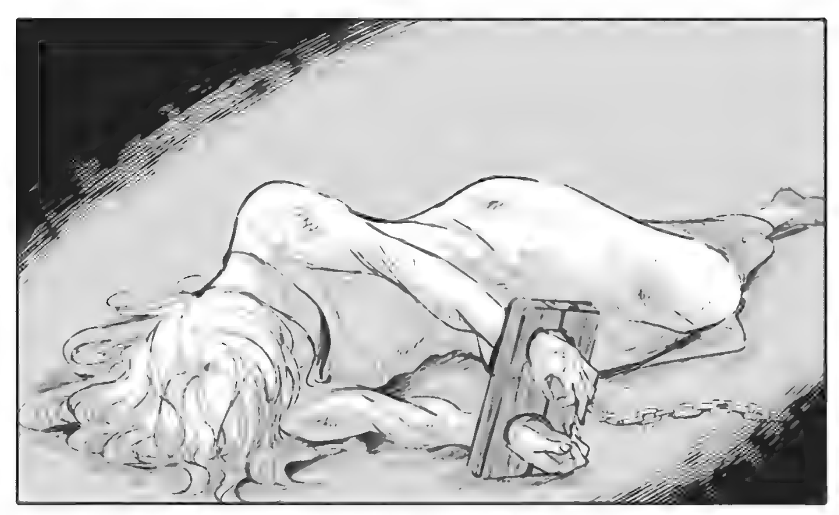

SHAKE
SHAKE


THEY'RE COMING ...
I MUST STOP THEM.
IF KÝMA COMES IN CONTACT WITH *THAT*...

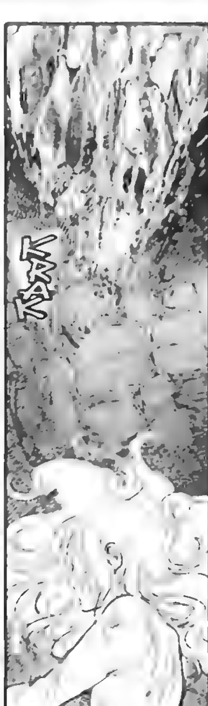

...THEN THANÁTAS ...!

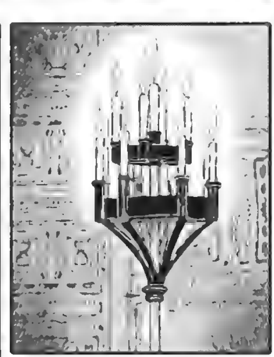

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM?
HE LOOKS AWFUL.


IT'S THAT ISLAND ...
THAT MUD SHIP BROUGHT THANÁTAS.



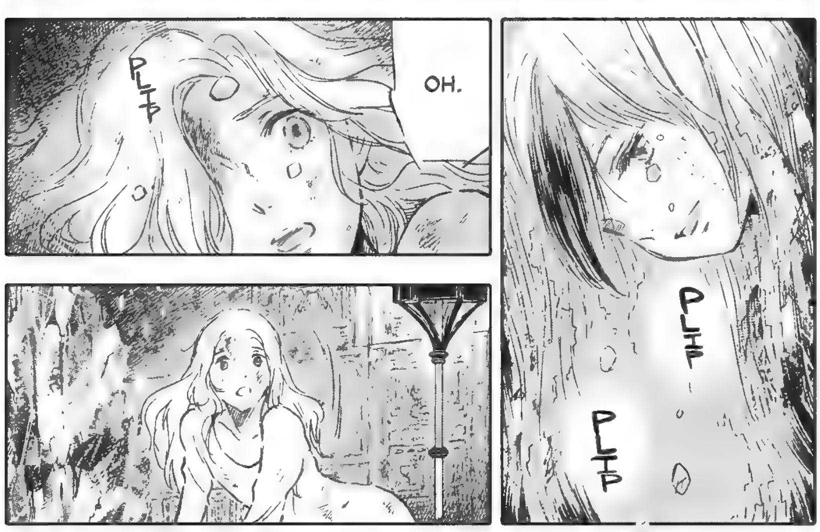

KRIK
KRAK


KRAK





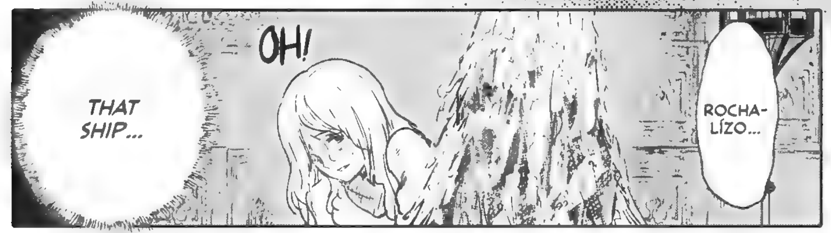
KRAK
KRAK

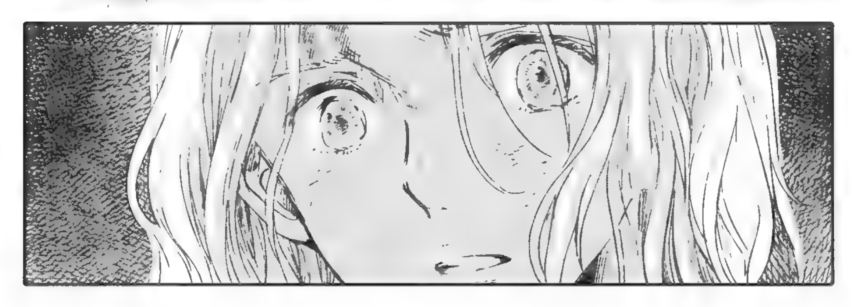



WHO ARE YOU?
I WAS UNCONSCIOUS.
YOU CAN'T SPEAK.
I REMEMBER. SIR DÁCHTYLA...
...SEEMED FRIGHTENED ALL OF A SUDDEN.
OF COURSE.


DAMN!
IT'S JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER!
A SHIP FROM THAT COUNTRY ?!
HE SAID A BATTLESHIP WAS NEARING AMONLOGIA...
FATHER.
YOU AND YOUR CURSED CLAN!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT...
RIGHT NOW, YOU SHOULD BE...
...FOCUSED ON PROTECTING AMONLOGIA.
PLEASE STOP.


ROCHALÍZO.


ROCHA-
LÍZO...
OH!
THAT SHIP...




KLANG

RIP

RIP

THE MAN WITH SILVER HAIR IS AT THE REAR GATE!

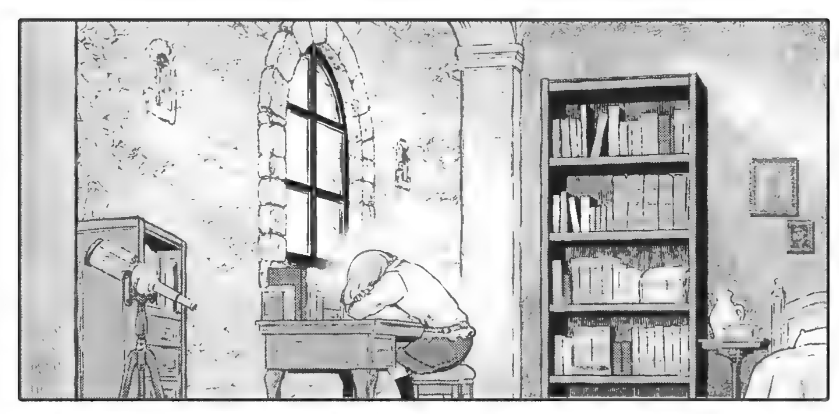
CRASH

TMP



A Sign from the God of Death -The End-

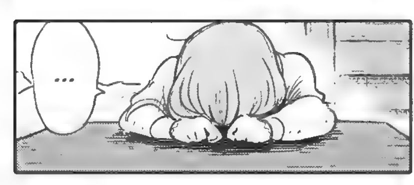

Chapter 45
Comrades

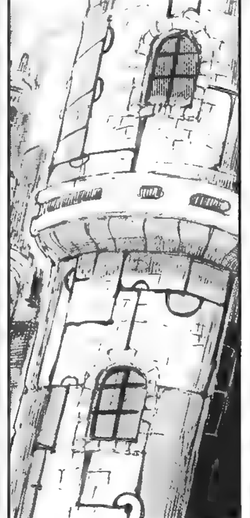



SNIFFL

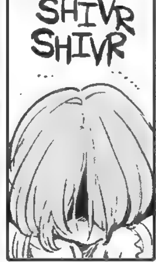





...



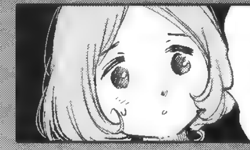

BANG

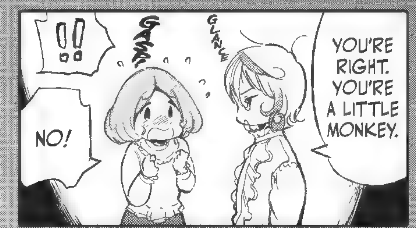

SHIVR SHIVR
...

HMPH!
KLATTA
GRAB
GRAB
CHASMOURITÓ
...


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THESE CASTOFFS FROM MY BROTHERS.

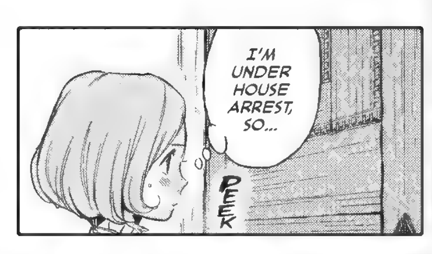

...WOULD YOU LIKE THESE?


I'M NOT SURE THEY'LL FIT... I'M MUCH SHORTER THAN YOU.

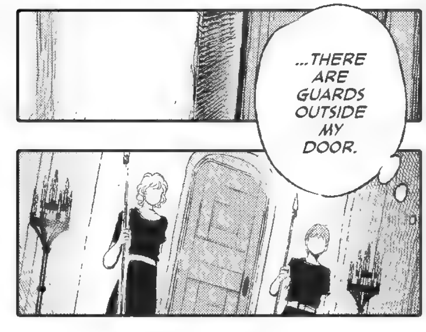

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE A LITTLE MONKEY.
GLANCE
GASP!
!!
NO!

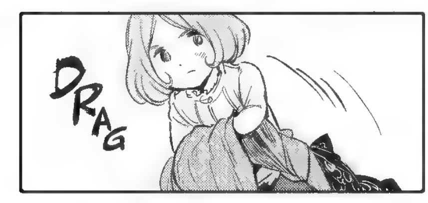

BUT I LIKE YOU TINY, CHASMOURITÓ.
...

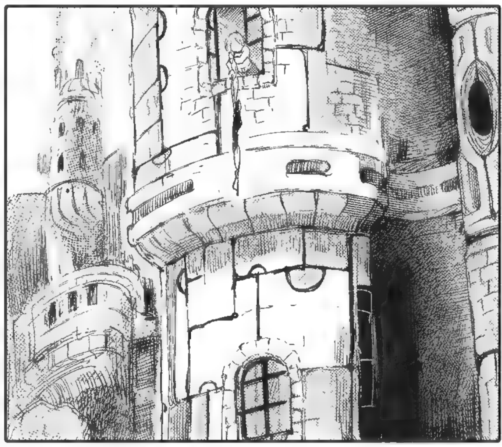

I'LL GET TALLER SO I CAN WEAR THEM!
NEVER MIND. I WON'T GIVE THEM TO YOU AFTER ALL.
GRAB
PLEASE, GIVE THEM TO ME!


I'M UNDER HOUSE ARREST, SO...
PEEK


I MADE HIM GIVE THEM TO ME.
SORRY, ROCHALÍZO.


...THERE ARE GUARDS OUTSIDE MY DOOR.

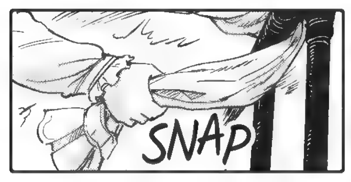
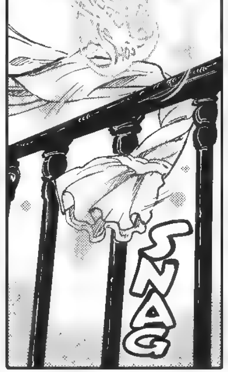
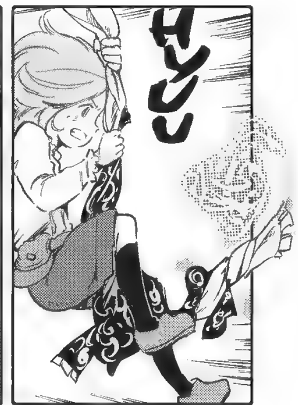

DRAG

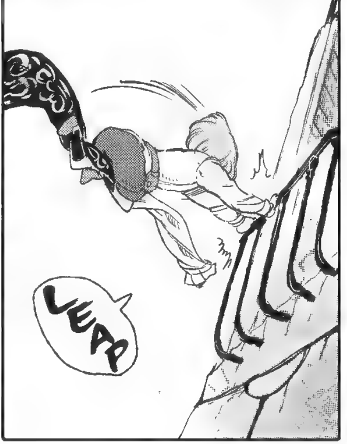


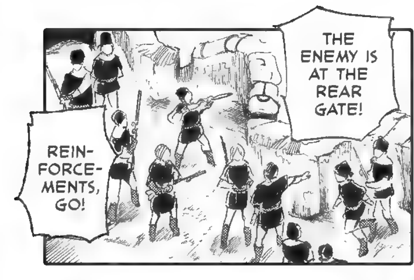


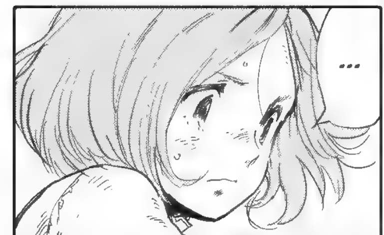

TH-THMP
TH-THMP
OH NO, IT'S LOCKED!
EEEEEK!
FWIIISH
HERE I...
HI...
SWING
...YUP!
PANT
PANT
JOLT

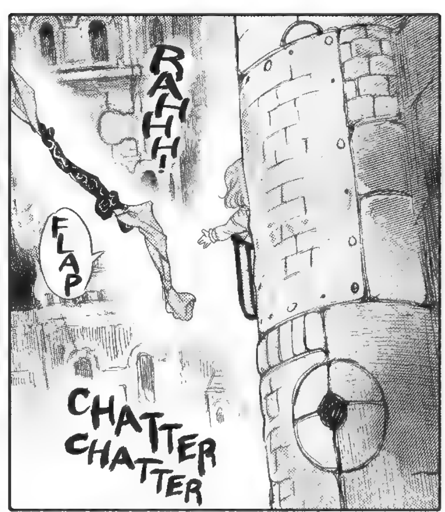

BLUB
SNIFL SNIFL
HUH?
...
AURA?
OH...
SINCE WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME ON THE MUD WHALE...
...THAT FÁLAINA ABSORBED SOME OF OUR LIFE FORCE...
...AND GAVE US THYMIA IN RETURN.


GRAB
I ONLY HAVE A LITTLE POWER...

SNAP

SNAG

HYUU

QUIVR
QUIVR
SIGH...

LEAP

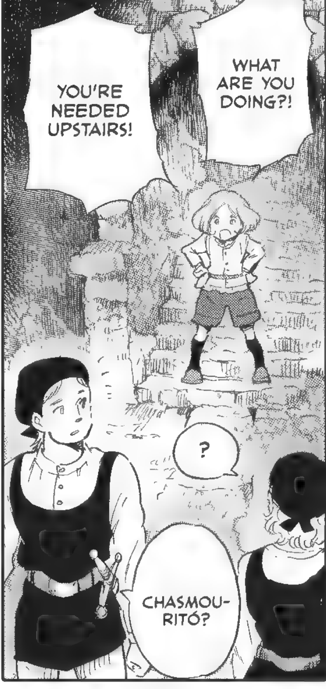

THE ENEMY IS AT THE REAR GATE!
REIN-FORCE-MENTS, GO!


...


RAHHH!
FLAP
CHATTER CHATTER


BUT...
WE'RE PRISON GUARDS ...


SINCE THE CASTLE IS UNDER ATTACK...
...EVERYONE, INCLUDING PRISON GUARDS, HAS BEEN ORDERED TO GATHER UPSTAIRS!
POIT
POIT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE NEEDED UPSTAIRS!
?
CHASMOU-RITÓ?



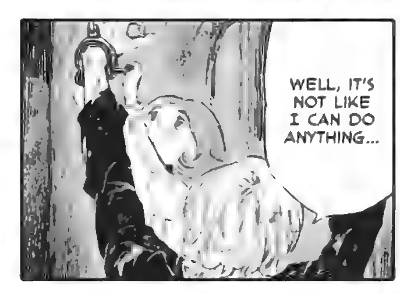

DASH


JANG
...SO GIVE ME YOUR KEYS.
I'LL TAKE OVER FOR YOU...
OH, OKAY!
HURRY!
GULP
OH!
JOLT


PAT


OH, THANK GOODNESS, SHUAN...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

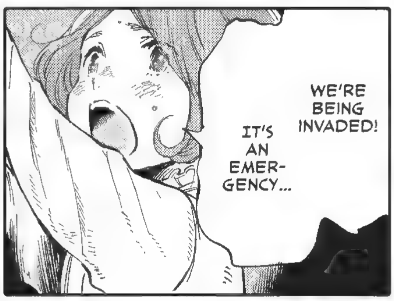

OH!

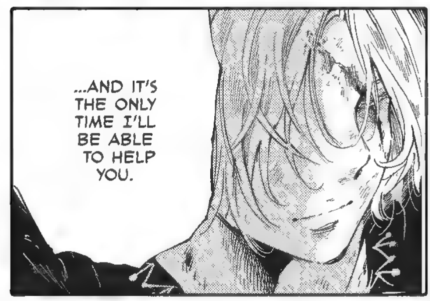

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING...


I WAS HAVING A DREAM...
S-SO CAREFREE!


IF I DO...
...THEY'LL KILL THE UNMARKED.


WAIT...
I'LL UNLOCK YOUR HANDCUFFS.


WE'RE BEING INVADED!
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY...

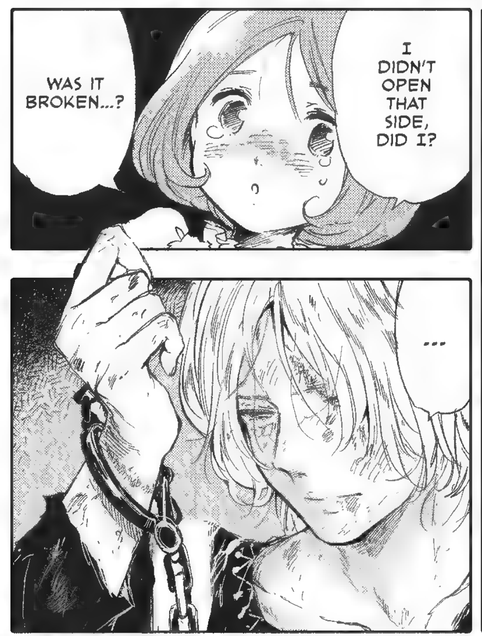

...AND IT'S THE ONLY TIME I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.


KRIIK

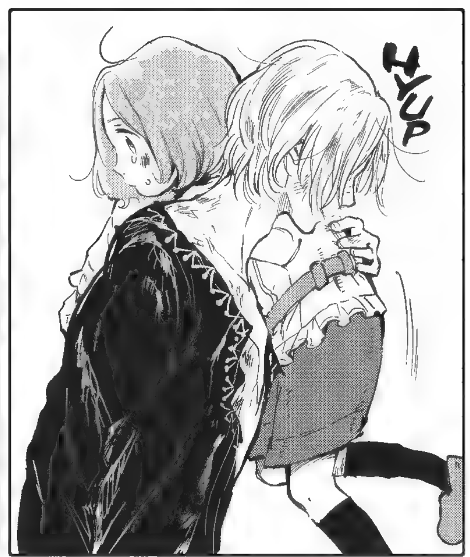

I'M SO SORRY...
WE DID AWFUL THINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE.

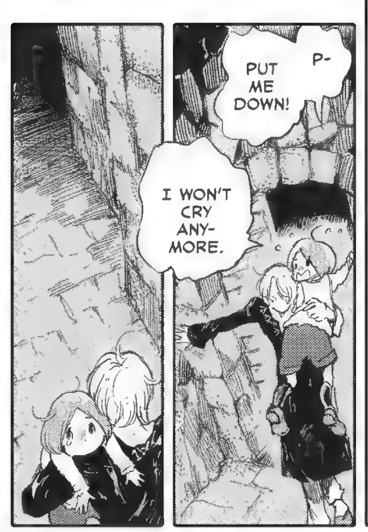



SNAP

HIC
HIC

I DIDN'T OPEN THAT SIDE, DID I?
WAS IT BROKEN...?
...

HIC
HUH?


HYUP


P- PUT ME DOWN!
I WON'T CRY ANYMORE.


WHERE ARE THE UNMARKED?
IN A SEPARATE AREA, AWAY FROM THE CELLS FOR SERIOUS CRIMINALS.
WILL ANYTHING HAPPEN TO THEM IF I LEAVE THE DUNGEON?

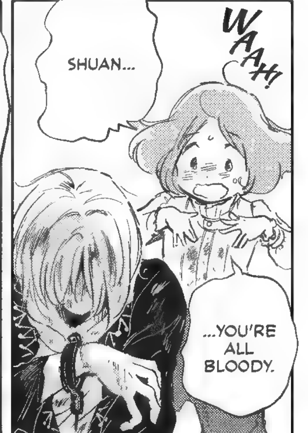

NO ONE WILL NOTICE.
A BIG ENEMY SHIP LANDED...
...AND THE CASTLE HAS BEEN BREACHED.


SLISH




OH.


MAYBE YOU SHOULD REST.
YES!
LET'S HIDE YOU SOMEWHERE.
WE CAN MEET UP AFTER I'VE RESCUED THE UNMARKED.


WAAH!
SHUAN...
...YOU'RE ALL BLOODY.


NO.
I'M GOING TO THE UNMARKED.
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

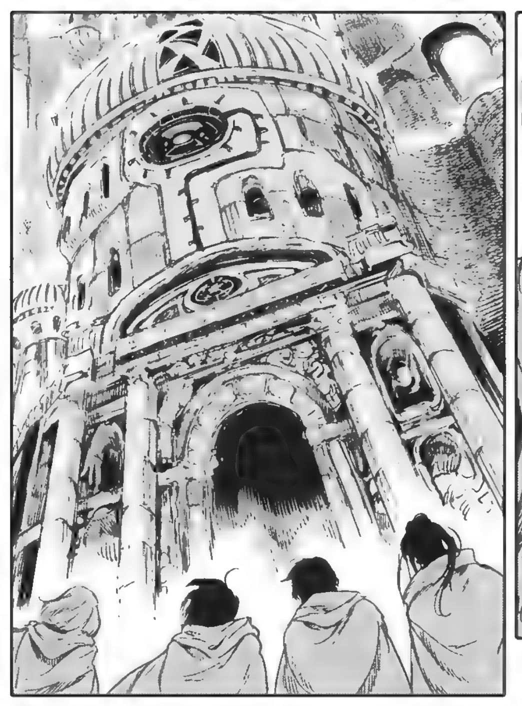
IF I CAN'T PROTECT THEM...

...THEN THERE'S NO POINT TO ME.

I HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST.

As if we were purposefully following *him*...

...we crossed the city and found ourselves at Dáchtyla's castle.

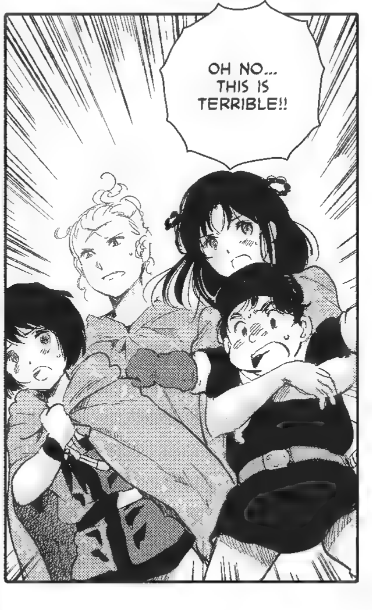






GASP!

OH.


THE IMPERIAL INVADERS MUST HAVE DONE THIS!

OH NO... THIS IS TERRIBLE!!

...


THAT'S NOT WHERE THE UNMARKED ARE BEING HELD.
IT'S THIS WAY.


THE UNMARKED ARE IN DANGER.
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
DASH


THANK YOU, UNCLE!
YOU'RE WE–


WHY AM I...?
GASP
YOU'RE TOTALLY ON OUR SIDE.


I AM NOT!!
IT'S JUST THAT OUR ENEMIES ARE NOW THE SAME AND...


UNCLE.


IT'S OKAY.


YOU NEED TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE HERE...
...JUST LIKE WE NEED TO SAVE THE UNMARKED, RIGHT?




UHN...


...


YOU'RE RIGHT.
GIVEN OUR CIRCUM-STANCES...
IF YOU'LL JUST TELL US HOW TO GET TO THE CELLS...


THANK YOU, UNCLE DUMPLING.
SORRY WE KIDNAPPED YOU.
YOU WERE A HUGE HELP!


TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.


LATER, UNCLE!






IF THEY HAD BECOME CITIZENS OF AMONLOGIA...
...AS WAS THEIR FIRST WISH...

...THEY MIGHT HAVE BECOME GOOD COMRADES...
...AND PRICELESS FRIENDS TO OUR COUNTRY.



SUU


H-
HEY...!

STAY ALIVE...!!


LET'S MEET AGAIN IN A WORLD WITHOUT CONFLICT OR VIOLENCE...
...SOMEDAY, AS COMRADES.

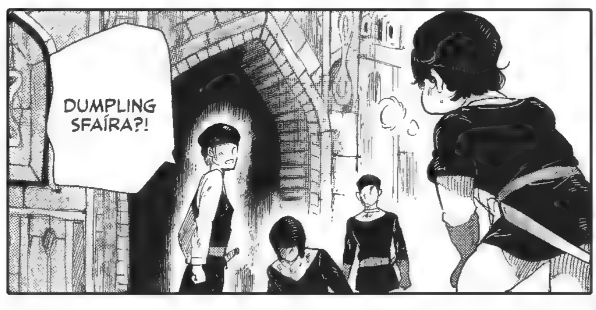
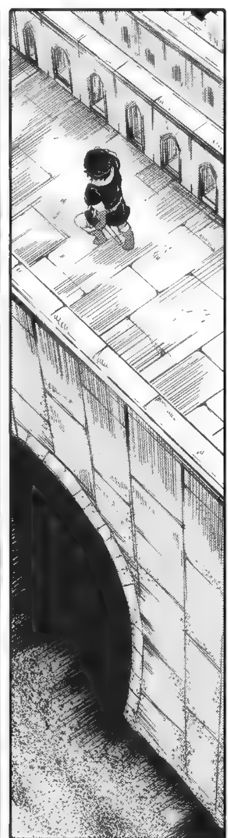


...there were people in the world we could create links with.

There are threads...

...that connect hearts across the world.


I'LL GO GET HELP.
DASH

CLENCH

DUMPLING SFAÍRA?!


I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
SEND AID THAT WAY TOO.

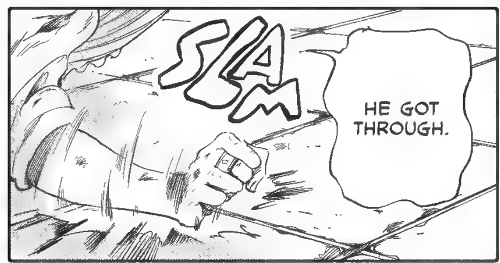
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON THAT ISLAND SHIP?
JOLT

WHAT ABOUT LORD DÁCHTYLA AND THE OTHERS?
SIR ROCHALÍZO IS UPSTAIRS...

SIR ROCHALÍZO?!







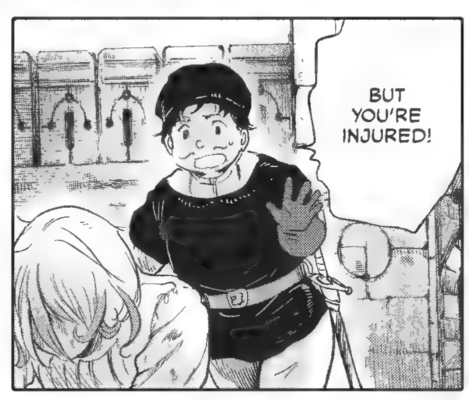





THE PERSON WHO DID THIS IS INSIDE THE CASTLE?!
NO...


WE ALLOWED THE GOD OF DEATH TO GET INSIDE THE CASTLE.


SKSSH

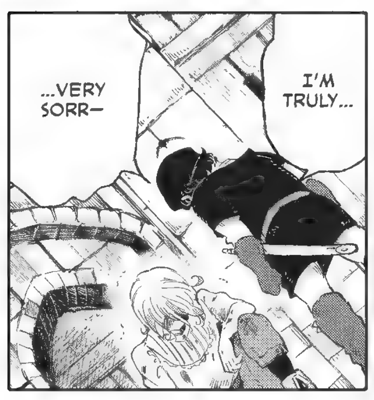

BUT YOU'RE INJURED!


WE... MUST GO AFTER HIM...


I...
...THOSE PEOPLE FROM THAT ISLAND...

SIR ROCHA-LÍZO ...
I HAVE SOME-THING TO REPORT.

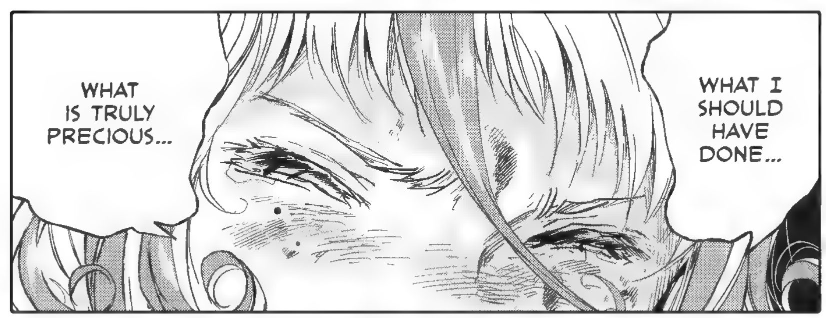
OH.

...THE CHILDREN OF THE MUD WHALE...
I BROUGHT THEM HERE...
...AND I TOLD THEM WHERE THE DUNGEON WAS AND WHERE THE UNMARKED WERE BEING HELD.

I'M TRULY...
...VERY SORR—

I'M READY FOR WHATEVER PUNISHMENT YOU DEEM FIT.
REPORT ME TO SIR DÁCHTYLA. I DON'T MIND.


GRAB

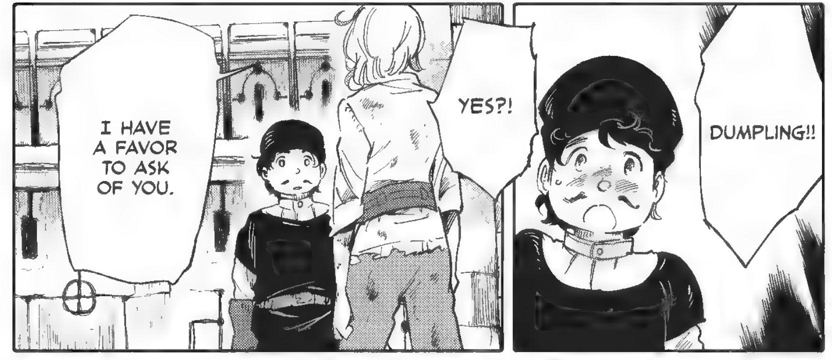

HOW... ...COULD YOU...
...DO SO EASILY WHAT I COULD NOT?


WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE...
WHAT IS TRULY PRECIOUS...


NOT PRETENTION OR PRIDE...
...BUT FRIENDSHIP.

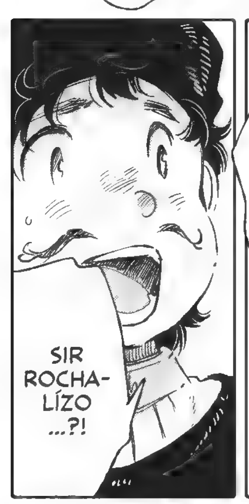

SIR ROCHALÍZO...
HOW COULD I NOT SIMPLY CHOOSE IT?!
HE'S HEADED FOR KÝMA...
...
WE KNOW WHERE THE MAN WITH SILVER HAIR IS GOING.
HE'S HEADED FOR THE APOLÍTHOMA CHAMBER.
!
SUOU... IS STILL THERE...

STAGGER
GRIT
CLENCH

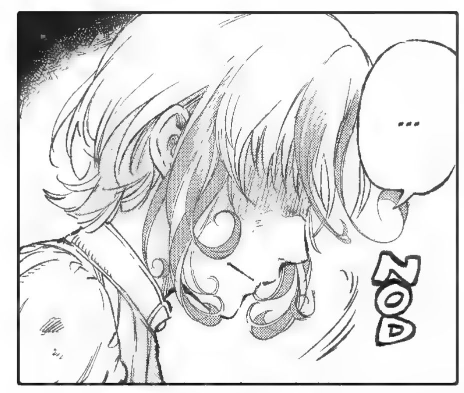

DUMPLING!!
YES?!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.


IF THEY ...
...THE CHILDREN FROM THE MUD WHALE...
IF THEY RETURN FROM SAVING THE UNMARKED ...
...I WANT YOU TO GUIDE THEM AGAIN.


I WANT YOU TO SEE TO IT...
...THAT THEY GET BACK TO THE MUD WHALE.


SIR ROCHA-LÍZO ...?!

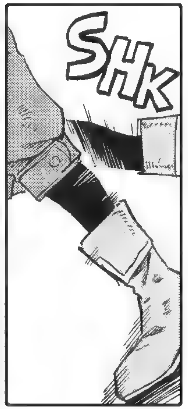

I WILL GO GET THEIR MAYOR AND RETURN HERE TO THE REAR GATE.
WAIT FOR ME WITH A BOAT.


...
NOD

ARE... ARE YOU SURE?


L—
LEAVE IT TO ME!

HE'S A FOOL...
WELL, I'M NOT ONE TO TALK.


SHK

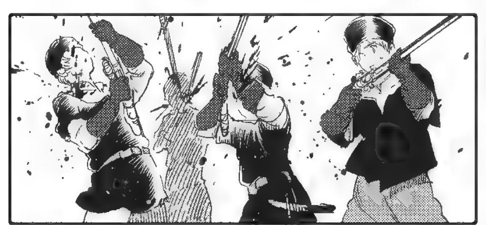
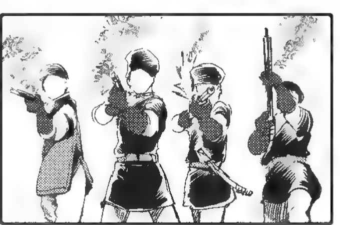
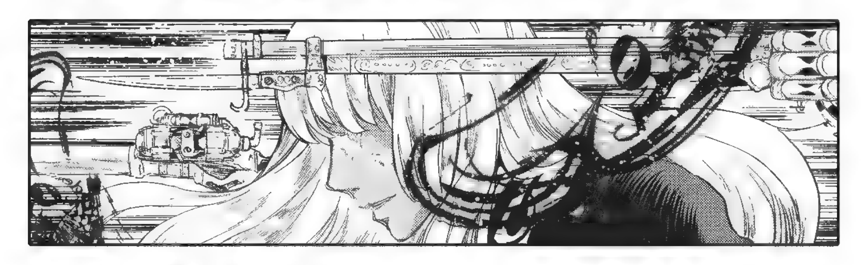
SO... USELESS FOURTH SON, EH?
TAK

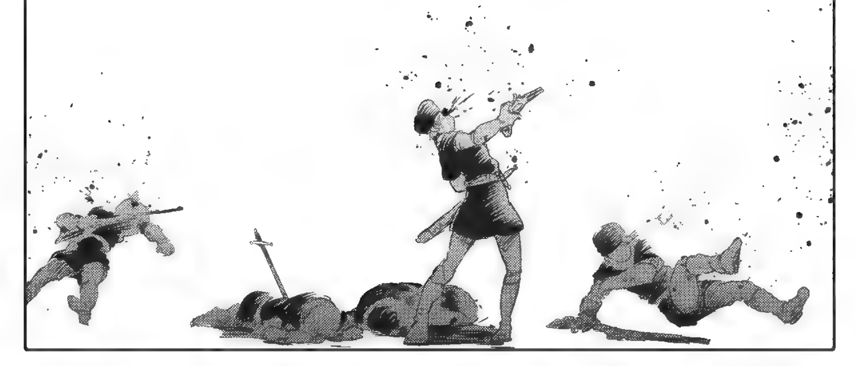




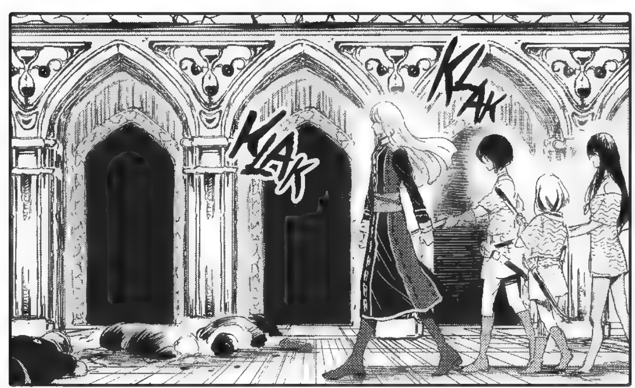
Comrades -The End-


Chapter 46
Sotíras's
Brief
Abode
TMP
TMP

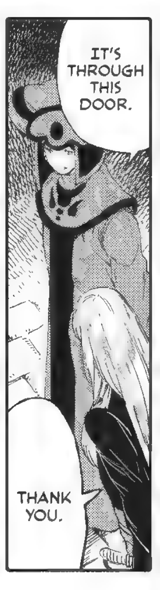





KLAK
KLAK


KLAK
KLAK




IT'S THROUGH THIS DOOR.
THANK YOU.


MYRMÍNKI, KOUNOÚPI...
...COME WITH ME.
YES, SIR.
HUH.


SLAM
DON'T LET...
...ANYONE IN.
WHAT ABOUT ME?!
WAIT HERE...
...LION-TARI.
WHAM
TAKE ME WITH YOU, ORCA!
I'M MORE USEFUL THAN THOSE TWO!
TAKE ME WITH
YOUUUUU!


WAAAAH!
KRIIK
NOOO!


AAAARGH!

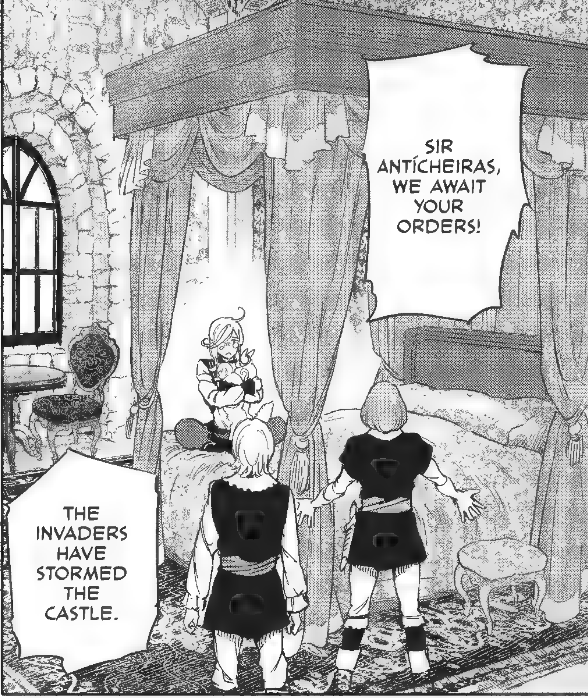

HUFF
HUFF


IT'S JUST THE KIDS.
SEIZE THEM!



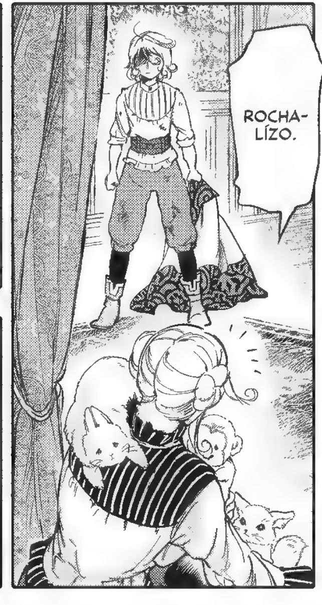

HEH HEH HEH...


FOOM
HUH?
SHING

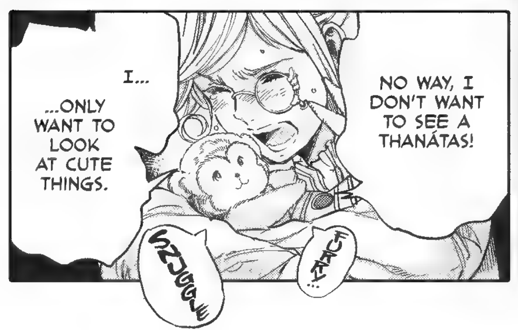

SIR ANTÍCHEIRAS, WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS!
THE INVADERS HAVE STORMED THE CASTLE.


LEAVE ME ALONE!
LET ME STAY HERE.


SOMEONE ...
...BRING ME MY BLANKET.


ROCHA-LÍZO.

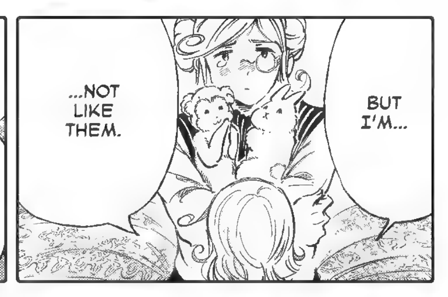

ANTÍCHEIRAS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE IS FATHER? YOU SHOULD BE PROTECTING HIM!


NO WAY, I DON'T WANT TO SEE A THANÁTAS!
I...
...ONLY WANT TO LOOK AT CUTE THINGS.
SNUGGLE
FURRY...

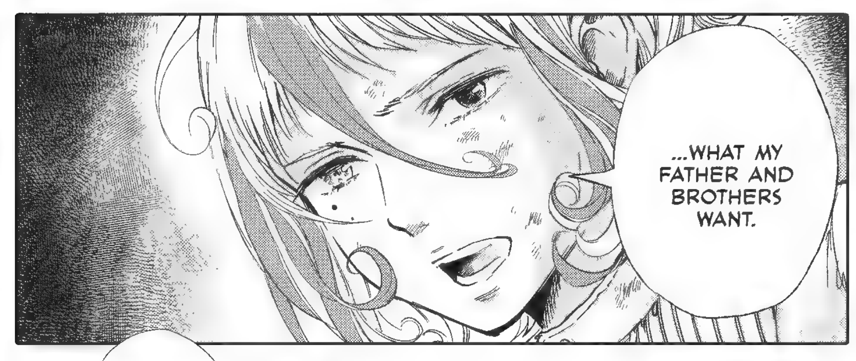

I'M...
...GOING TO FIND THE DEVIL KING.
DON'T GO, ROCHALÍZO!!
ANTÍCHEIRAS!
I JUST WANT TO BE SURROUNDED BY CUTE THINGS!
PLEASE WAKE ME FROM THIS NIGHTMARE...
ROCHALÍZO...
PUT THIS ON AND STAY WITH ME.
FURRY...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE STRONG...
...YOU ENDLESSLY SILLY CHILD.

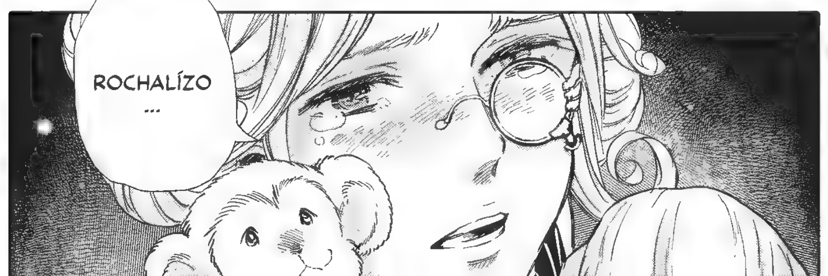

IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER...
...WHEN I'M SILLY AND USELESS, DOESN'T IT, ANTÍCHEIRAS?


YES.
YOU'RE SO MUCH CUTER WHEN YOU'RE WEAK...
...SO I WANT YOU TO STAY THAT WAY FOREVER.


BUT I'M...
...NOT LIKE THEM.


I...
...WILL NO LONGER DO...


...WHAT MY FATHER AND BROTHERS WANT.


ROCHALÍZO ...





FIRE!!

KABLAM

HYUU

HYUU

HYUU

WHOOSH

THANÁTAS!!

I ORDER YOU TO LEAVE!!

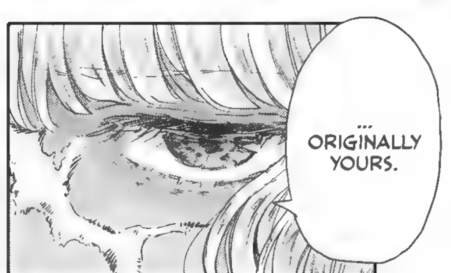




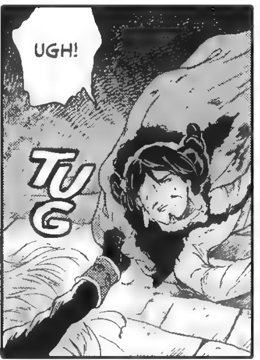

KLAK
KLAK
YANK
KINDLY HAND OVER...
...KÝMA.
URGH...
AHHH...
GRAB

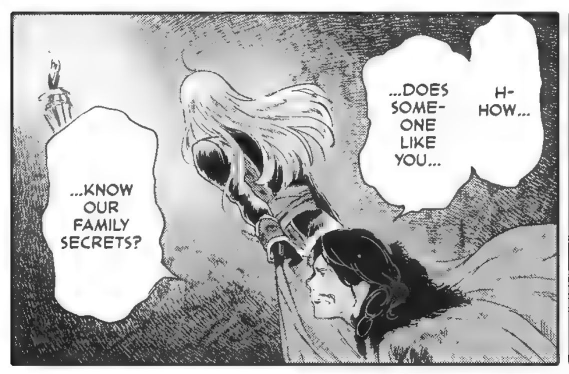

UNLIKE YOUR ANCESTORS...
...I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE A THIEF.

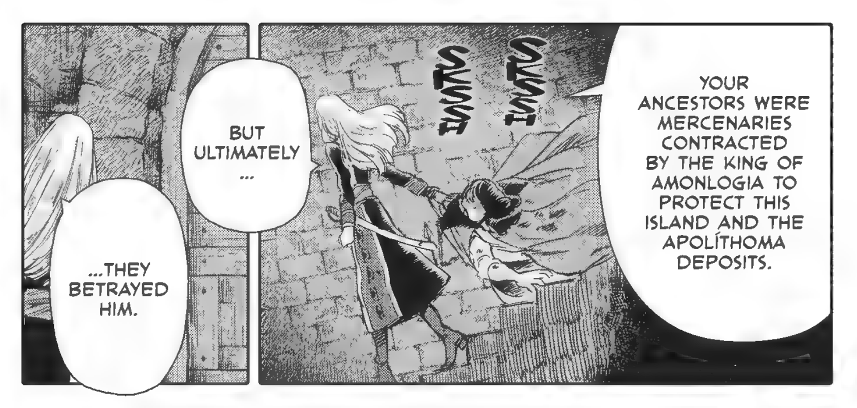

YOUR FAMILY WERE ONCE LOOTERS WITH THE MERE VENEER OF TRADERS...
...AND WERE NO BETTER THAN PIRATES.
KÝMA AND THE APOLÍTHOMA WERE NOT...

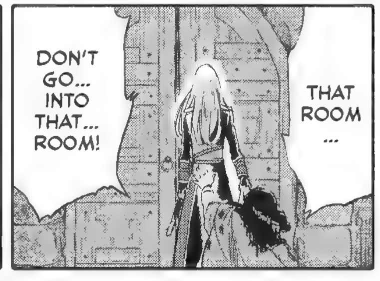

... ORIGINALLY YOURS.


YOU...
... MONSTER.


UGH!
TUG


H-HOW...
...DOES SOME-ONE LIKE YOU...
...KNOW OUR FAMILY SECRETS?







YOUR ANCESTORS ALREADY KNEW HOW TO MANIPULATE LIVING SHIPS IN COMBAT...

...AND THEY STOLE THE KNOWLEDGE FOR MAKING SHIPS AND WEAPONS USING APOLÍTHOMA.

FINALLY, THEY FORTIFIED THIS REMOTE ISLAND INTO A BASE FOR THEIR WEAPONS INDUSTRY UNTIL EVEN THE KING OF SUIDELASIA HAD TO RECOGNIZE THEM.


SHW


YES.


IS THAT ABOUT RIGHT?
YOU DID A LOT OF RESEARCH FOR ME.
YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED ALREADY...
...BUT I NEED A STORY TO SELL.
ONE THAT MAKES IT ACCEPTABLE TO SEIZE A TREASURE...
...FROM A KING-KILLING LOOTER.


UHHN
...
TH UD
SIR
DÁCHTYLA!!
KLAK
KLAK


ARE YOU... KÝMA?

HE FEELS LIKE LYKOS.
!
YOU... ARE...
OH.

YOU SMELL LIKE MILK.

KLATTA

I'M WILLING TO SAVE YOU...

...IF YOU JOIN ME.

IF SIR ORCA SEES A CHILD NEAR DEATH...

...HE BRINGS THEM HOME AND MAKES THEM FAMILY.

LIONTARI, ITIA AND US...WE'RE ALL THE SAME.


...
KÝ... MA...

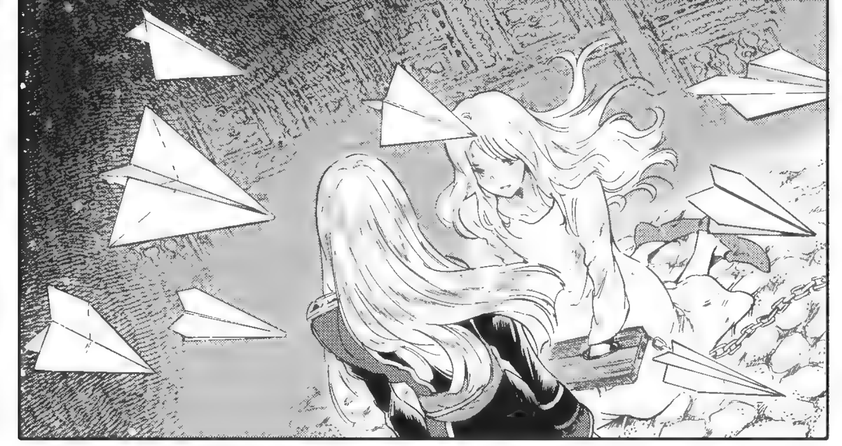

EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE GOD OF DEATH.


YOU'RE SHAKING...
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR ME.

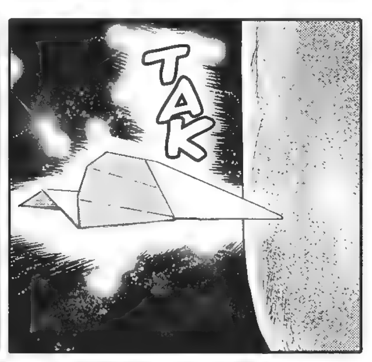

KÝMA ...
I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH...
DON'T MOVE.

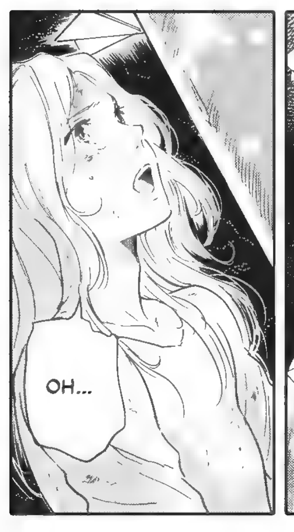

OH.
SWOOP


I'VE NEVER...
...FEARED ANYONE...
BUT...

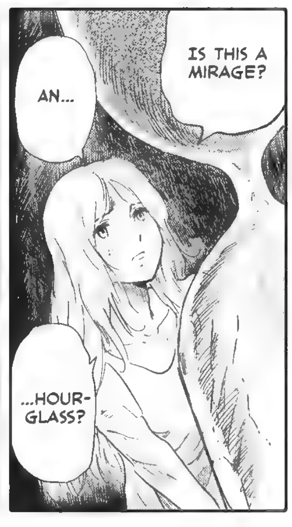



TAK
TAK
TAK


TAK


OH...


SHFF
SHFF


IS THIS A MIRAGE?
AN...
...HOUR-GLASS?

SA...

...

SAMI...

KRKL

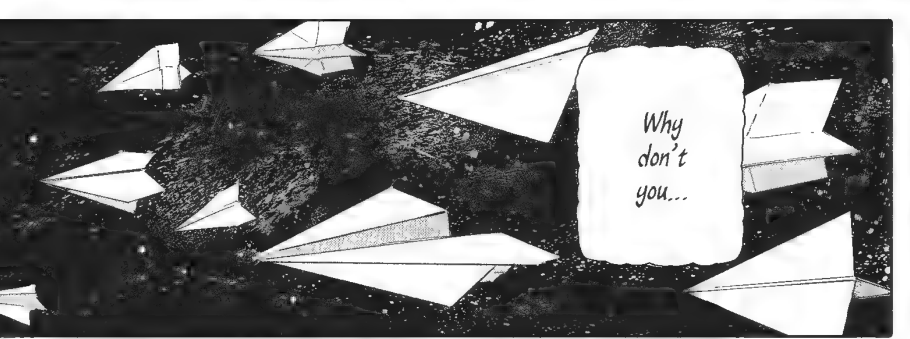
KRKL




KÝMA
...
...DON'T
TOUCH
THANÁTAS
...!!
KRKL KRKL
N-
NO.
THMP




Hello...
...Mr. Looter.


Why don't you...


A DEAL?
THAT BRINGS ME BACK.
YOU CREATURES ONLY SEEM TO DEAL IN DEALS.
Ha ha! Well, you know how it is.
Are you ready? If your story amuses me...
...then I will agree to be taken by you.



I am Kýma.



...make a deal with me?



OH, YOU MEAN OLIVÍNIS.
You remember? It was several years ago.
SNAP



But I know of your first deal.
That child and I are connected through the sand.

SKAASH

THAT'S ME...

JUST AFTER WE WENT ON A RAID WITH SKYROS AND I DECIMATED AN ENEMY BASE.

I WAS ELEVATED TO THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE SÁRKA BECAUSE OF THAT ACHIEVEMENT.

THE VISION HAS CHANGED...

WHERE IS THIS?

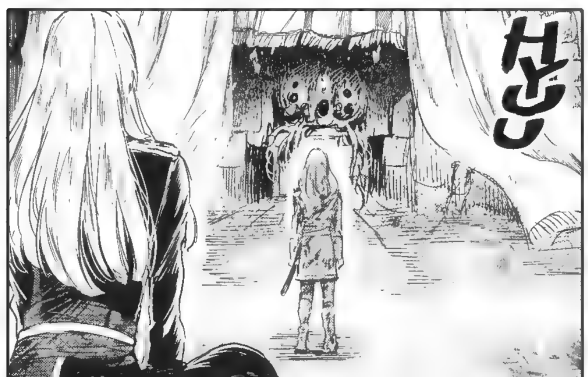


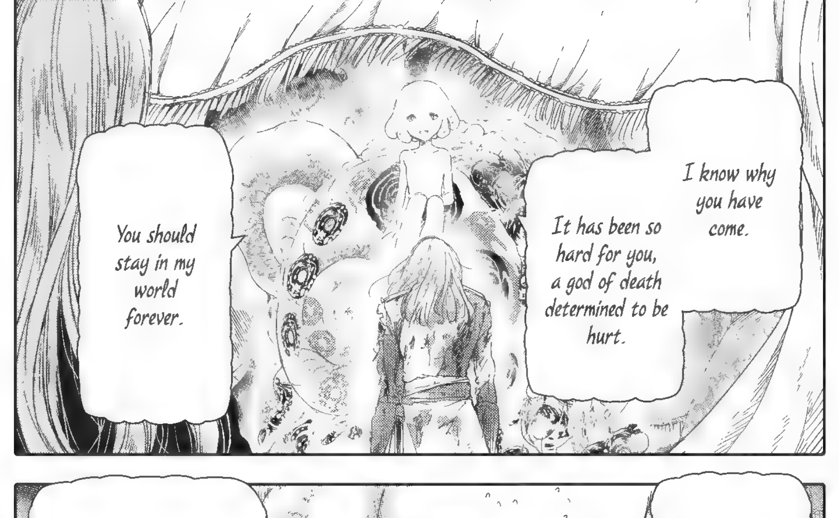



SKAASH


KRAK




HYUU





...I will give you the key that is your rightful inheritance ...

...and eternal peace.

GASP!

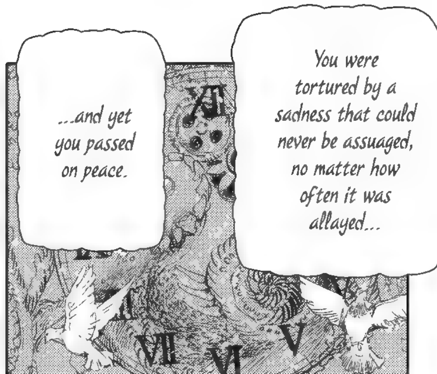

Your painful memories will be rewritten with the power of the Nous.
Peace, nostalgia and love...
In a world awash with those emotions...
...you can forget your suffering and bathe in joy for eternity.
Come this way.


Why...
...why didn't you...
...go then?
Your perfect world was right in front of you.
FWWOSH
I...
I WAS SURE I WOULD GET TO THAT WORLD...
I WAS CONVINCED OF IT.
BUT I COULDN'T GO...
...BY MYSELF...

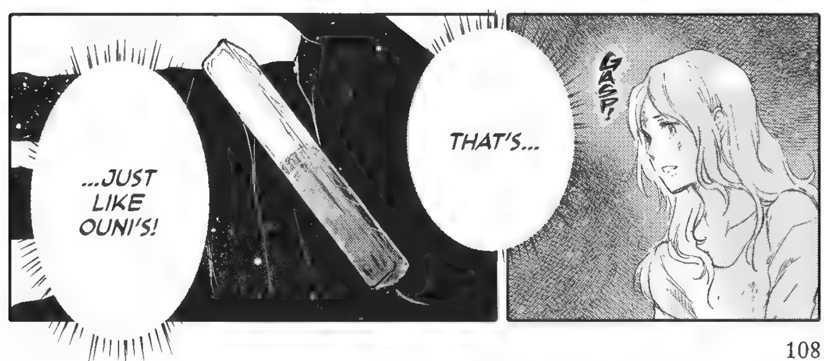


I JUST COULDN'T DO IT ALONE...
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T GO.
You?
I possess every one of your memories...
...that Ánthropos ate.
So I know...
...that you couldn't kill a flea...
...and you were shattered when this sad accident happened.
You were more sensitive and fearful than anyone.


...
How were you able to make such a choice?


You were tortured by a sadness that could never be assuaged, no matter how often it was allayed...
...and yet you passed on peace.


HE TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED...
...TO SEE WHAT LAY BEYOND MY DECISION.
IT'S THE SAME KEY THAT MY PARENTS HAD.
OLIVÍNIS GAVE ME THE KEY, AFTER ALL.


GASP!
THAT'S...
...JUST LIKE OUNI'S!


Ah, a key that can create...
...a daímonas.
A monster and our only natural enemy...
You...
...are of ápostasía blood.
Those who give rise to daímonas.
Answer me, ápostasía...
Is your story...
...enough to move me?

I...

...POSSESS THE KEY. SO ALL I NEED TO DO...

...IS MAKE YOU SEIZE FÁLAINA...

...CONTROL THE DAÍMONAS...

...PUSH *THEM* OUT...

...AND TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR PROGENITOR...

...ÁNTHROPOS.

WE ARE NOT FOOD FOR YOU!

WE WILL BECOME NOUS OURSELVES!







...a single creature in the universe who has accomplished that.

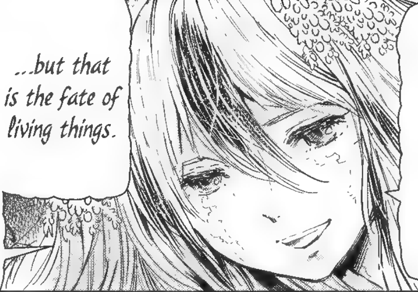
Sotíras's Brief Abode -The End-


Chapter 47
Master of the Star


Humans?
Becoming Nous?
There isn't a single creature in the universe who has accomplished that.

You humans are enticed by Nous. You control each other's hearts, fight and kill one another.

That's because you are weak.

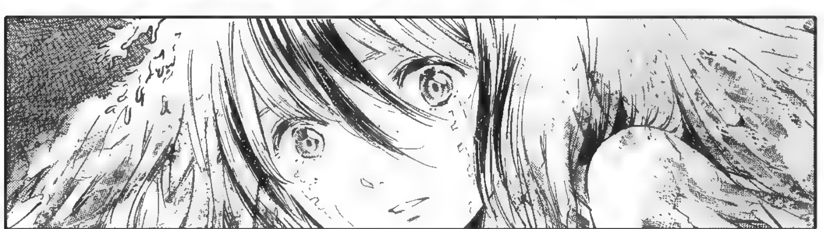






I WILL COMPLETELY REWRITE THE STORY...

...OF THE STRONG AND THE WEAK.






Heh heh heh...
It's been a while...
...since I've been so entertained.
I have been very bored here.

I want to see you turn this world...
...upside down.
Yes!
I want to see a truly ridiculous farce!
SWOOP
SNAP
WHOOSH

I'll let you have me...

...ápostasía storyteller.

KRKL

KRKL

FLAP

SAMI.

SAMI!!

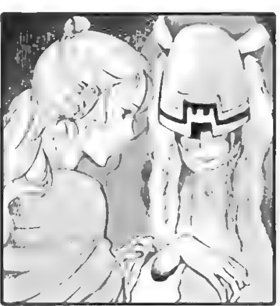

ZSSH


Go forth,
weak ones...


...into a new world.



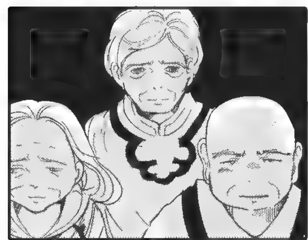


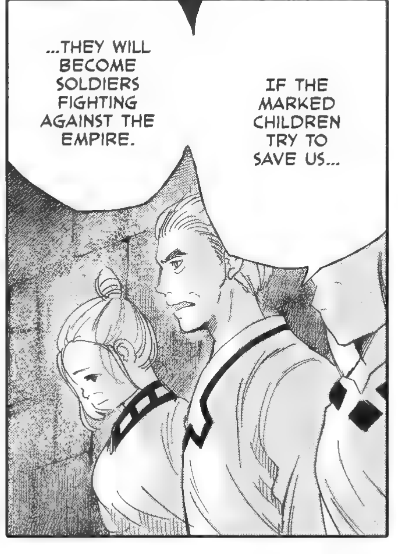
KUCHIBA ...
WE'D LIKE A WORD.




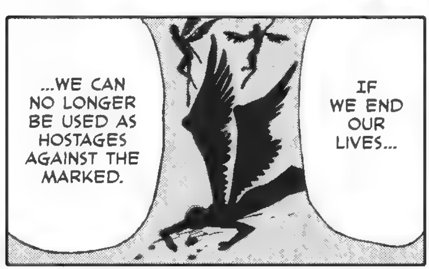

SUICIDE?!


DON'T YOU...
...START THAT AGAIN!



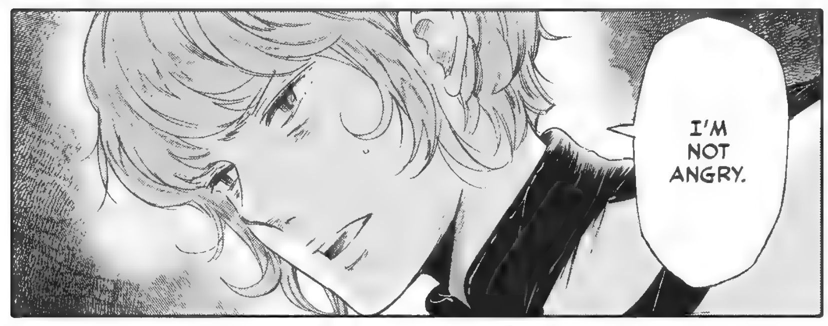

IF THE MARKED CHILDREN TRY TO SAVE US...
...THEY WILL BECOME SOLDIERS FIGHTING AGAINST THE EMPIRE.


THAT CAN'T HAPPEN...
WE CAN'T LET THEM FIGHT OR DIE ANY-MORE.


IF WE END OUR LIVES...
...WE CAN NO LONGER BE USED AS HOSTAGES AGAINST THE MARKED.

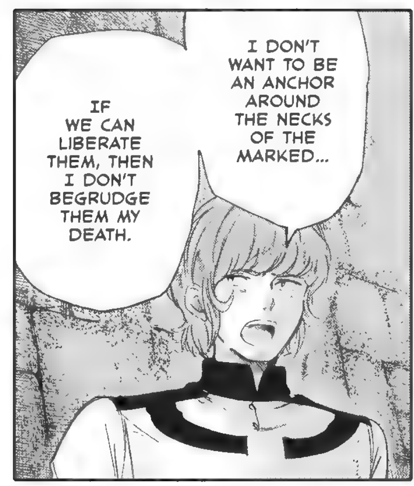

KUCHIBA...


DON'T BE ANGRY...
THE ELDERS ARE SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE MARKED...

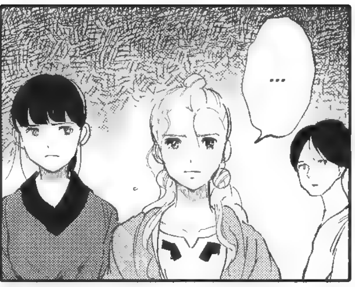

I'M NOT ANGRY.


KUCHIBA.

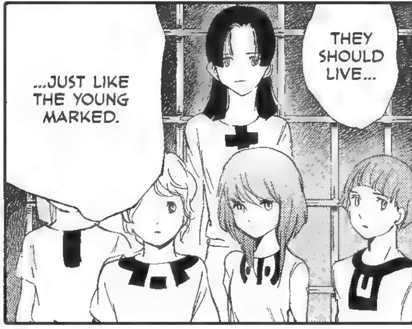

I'VE BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS.


I DON'T WANT TO BE AN ANCHOR AROUND THE NECKS OF THE MARKED...
IF WE CAN LIBERATE THEM, THEN I DON'T BEGRUDGE THEM MY DEATH.


BUT...
...THERE ARE YOUNG ONES AMONG THE UNMARKED TOO.


...


MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO SAVE THE UNMARKED CHILDREN.


THEY SHOULD LIVE...
...JUST LIKE THE YOUNG MARKED.


WE'RE UNMARKED TOO, AND WE PROTECT THE MARKED!
WE CAN DIE FOR THE MARKED!!


SHINONO ...
OF COURSE WE'D LIKE—
U... UM...







G-GIVE THAT TO ME!

SNATCH

I WILL LIBERATE THE MARKED...

...FROM THEIR CRUEL FATE!


AHHHHH!

GRAB

SERIOUSLY ...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU...?

WHY ARE YOU ALL...
...SO SILLY?

BONK

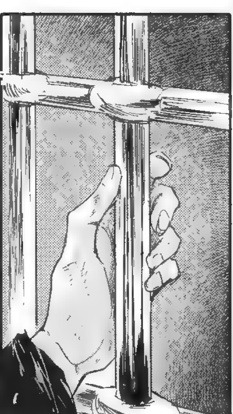
...

COM-
MANDER!!

SHUAN!!










KRIK




KONK
OW.

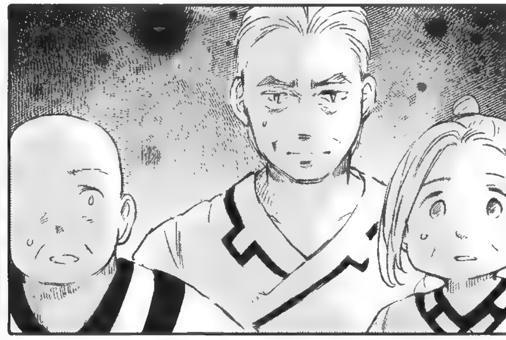

?!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T USE YOUR THYMIA...


...


SHUAN ...
IMPOS-SIBLE...

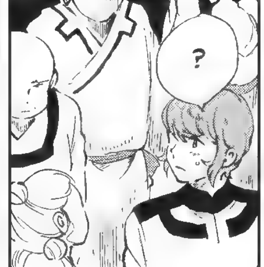

IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS...
... AFTER 16 YEARS...
...IT'S AWAKENED.

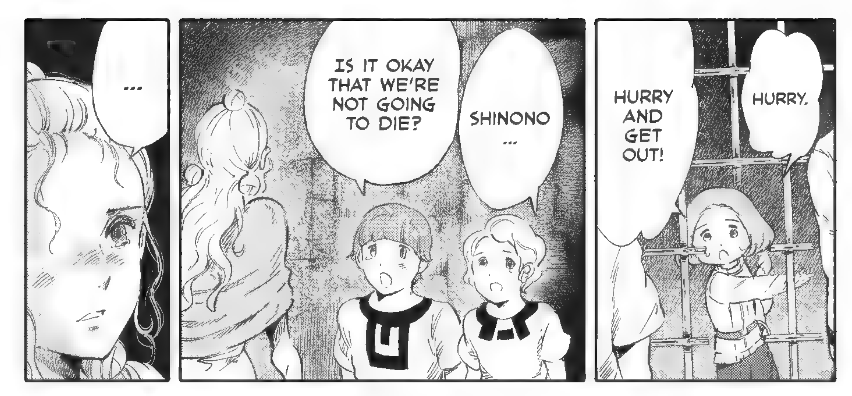

YOU MUST BE SO HAPPY...
...THAT I WASN'T A FAILURE.

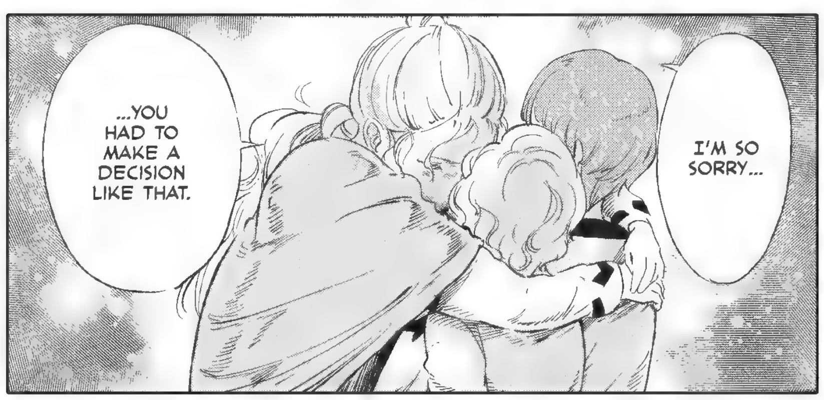



...


WELL, NEVER MIND THAT.
IT'S TIME TO ESCAPE AMONLOGIA.


?

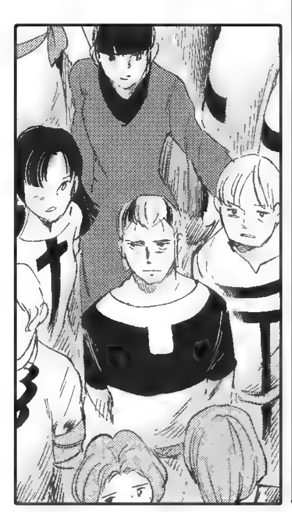

HURRY.
HURRY AND GET OUT!
SHINONO ...
IS IT OKAY THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIE?
...

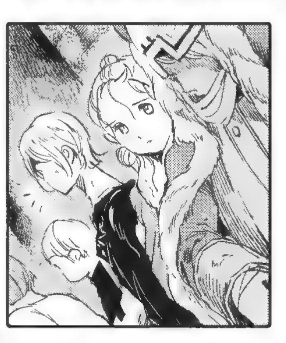

I'M SO SORRY...
...YOU HAD TO MAKE A DECISION LIKE THAT.


WHUMP
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!


I HAD THE PRISON GUARDS GO UPSTAIRS.
YOU NEED TO HURRY NOW!







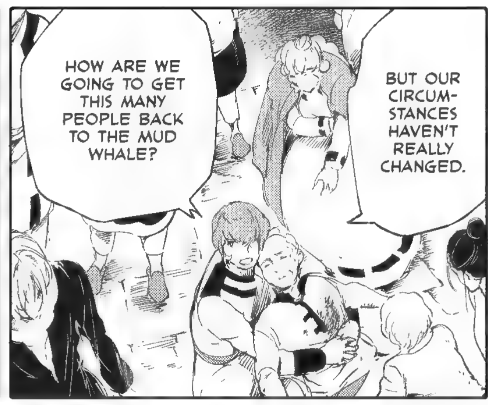

MOTHER ...
HOW'S YOUR WOUND?


I'M FINE...
...BUT LOOK AT YOU.


YOU'RE A MESS.


YES, MOTHER.




BUT OUR CIRCUM-STANCES HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THIS MANY PEOPLE BACK TO THE MUD WHALE?


ARE YOU BRINGING THAT BODY?


IF WE DON'T BURY THEM IN THE SEA OF SAND...
...THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK ON THE DAY THE SAND RETURNS.

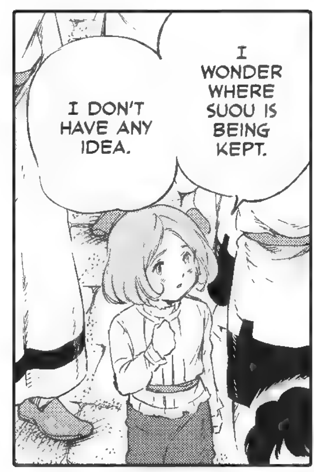

GOOD GRIEF.

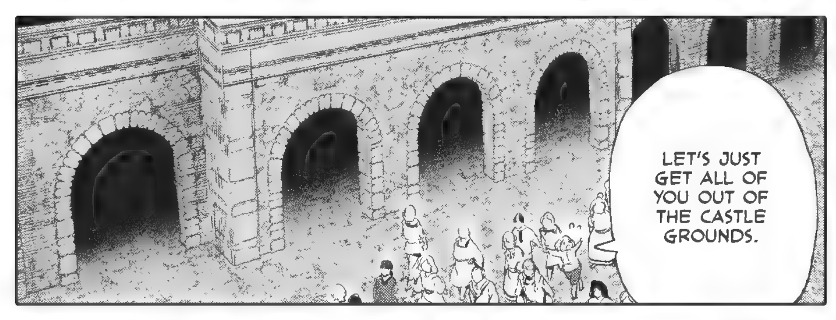

COMMANDER, ISN'T MAYOR SUOU WITH YOU?

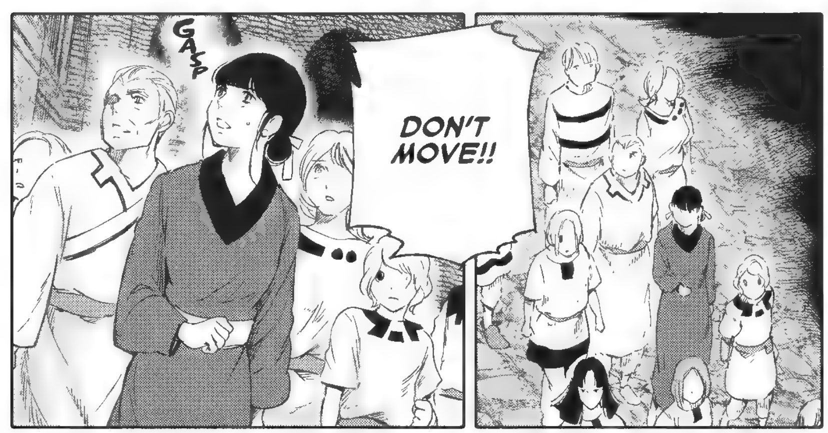

HE'S NOT HERE?


...

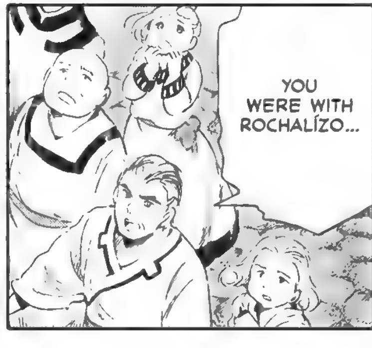

MAYOR SUOU...
...MIGHT BE TRYING TO END HIS LIFE TOO.
HE WOULDN'T DO THAT.

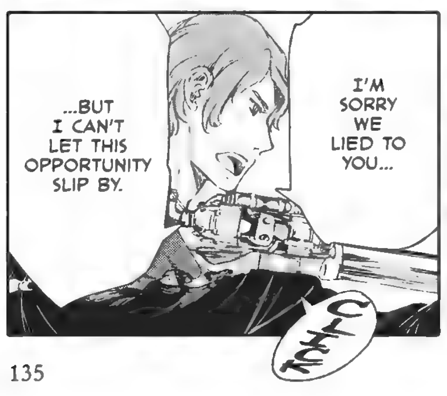

I WONDER WHERE SUOU IS BEING KEPT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA.


LET'S JUST GET ALL OF YOU OUT OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS.

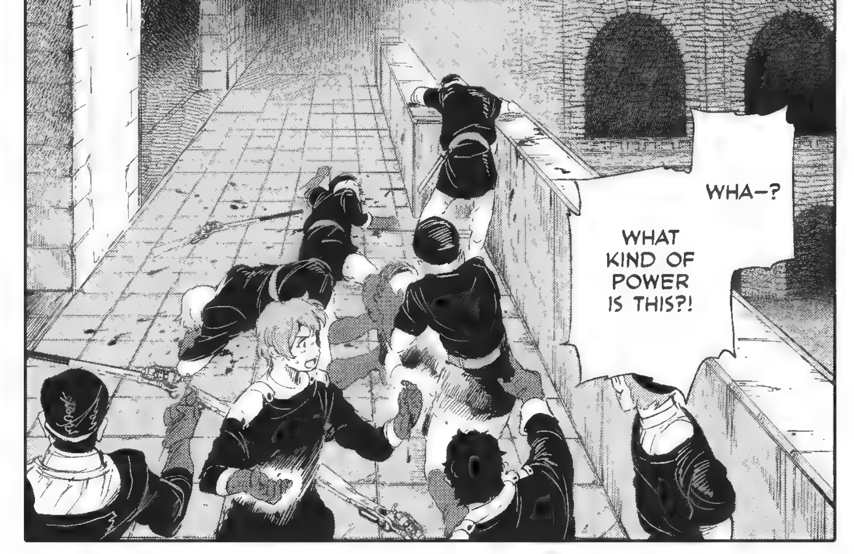

DON'T MOVE!!
GASP

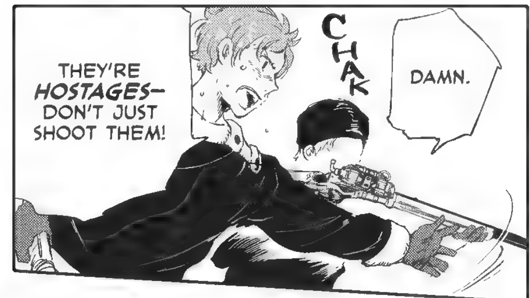

CHASMOURITÓ...
...THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!


YOU WERE WITH ROCHALÍZO...


I'M SORRY WE LIED TO YOU...
...BUT I CAN'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY.
CLICK


IF I CREATE A DISTRAC-TION....
...CAN YOU GET AWAY?
SHUAN.
!!


WHA-?
WHAT KIND OF POWER IS THIS?!


THEY'RE *HOSTAGES*— DON'T JUST SHOOT THEM!
CHAK
DAMN.


HURRY!
GO NOW!


?!

...

I CAN'T USE IT...

IS THERE A LIMIT TO THIS POWER?

CAN I ONLY USE IT FOR A SET AMOUNT OF TIME?



KILL... ...THAT MAGICIAN!!

SHOOT HIM!!

WHAT IS THIS...?

THE CURSE... OF THE... SHAM?

I'M BREAKING OUT IN A COLD SWEAT...

I FEEL SICK.

GASP

SHUAN...

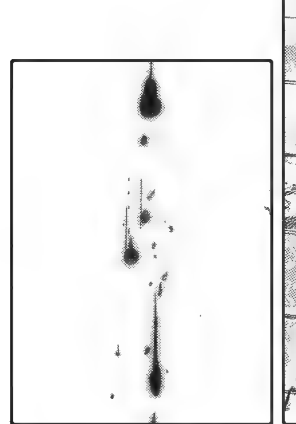
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HEY!

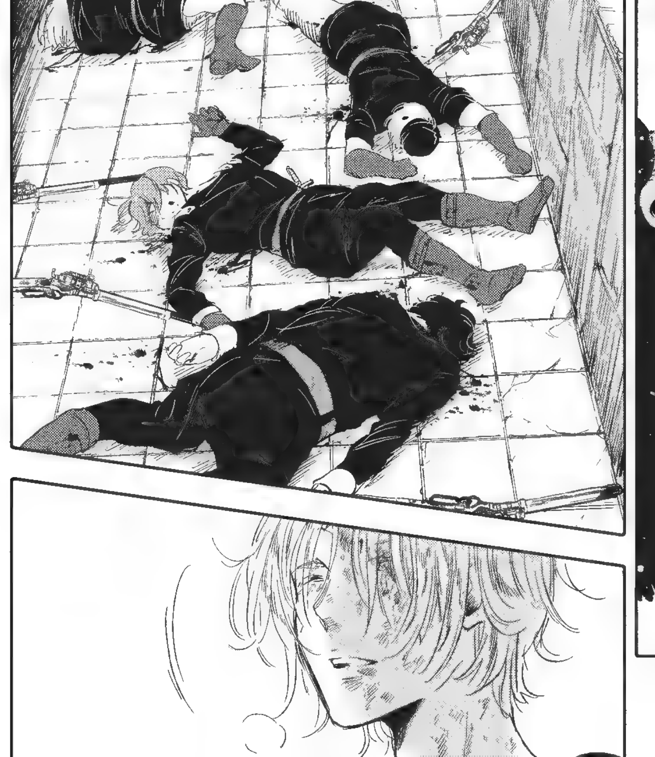
HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE!!



SHUAN!!



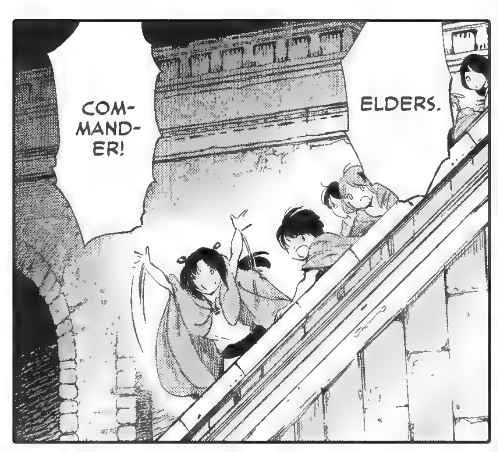
PLIP
PLIP





KINDA CUTTING IT CLOSE THERE, KID.
YOU...
...WANT TO COMPLAIN *NOW*?


OUNI!
HOW...
...DID THOSE KIDS GET HERE?


ELDERS.
COM-MAND-ER!


DASH


?!
GLOM

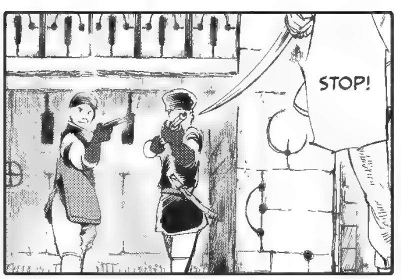
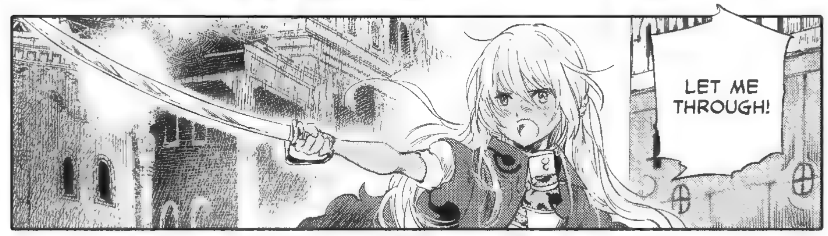

KUCHI... BA...


NO CRYING!!

I JUST...
...WANT EVERYONE TO BE TOGETHER.
CLENCH
I'M NEVER GOING TO BE SEPARATED...
...FROM THE UNMARKED AGAIN.


TMP
TMP


TMP


ARE YOU WITH THE MAN WITH SILVER HAIR?!
NO, BUT...
...THEY HAVE THE SAME SKIN COLOR.

STOP!

LET ME THROUGH!

!!
GYAAAA!

SHING
SERI-OUSLY...
WE MEET HERE?



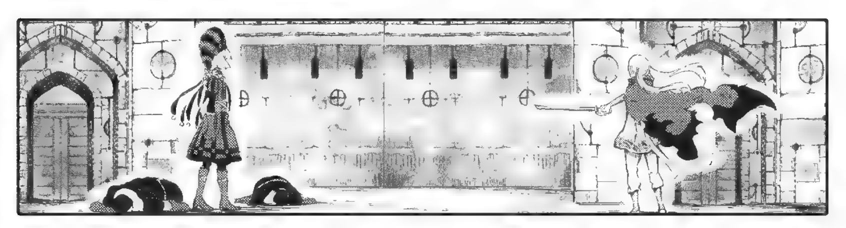
Master of the Star -The End-


Chapter 48
A Swarm of Sand

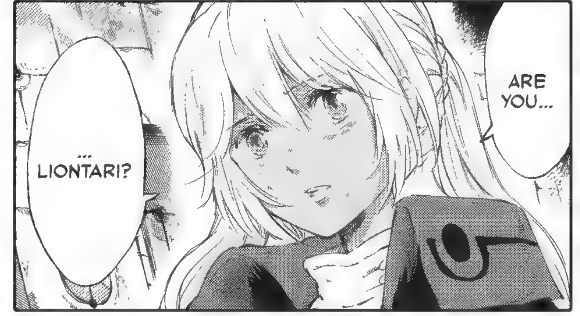

From the Annals of the Empire, Part 1
The Empire and Nouses
The history of the empire is intrinsically entwined with the Nouses, and the country was able to flourish on the harsh Sea of Sand only after it discovered the power of the creatures.
Nouses not only make navigation of the Sea of Sand possible, they remove distracting human emotions.
There are a finite number of Nouses in existance, of which the empire currently has eight. Among those eight is the Nous Ánthropos, said to be the origin of all other Nouses. Ánthropos is massive and keeps the empire itself afloat and mobile. The other Nouses are primarily used to power battleships.




SHING

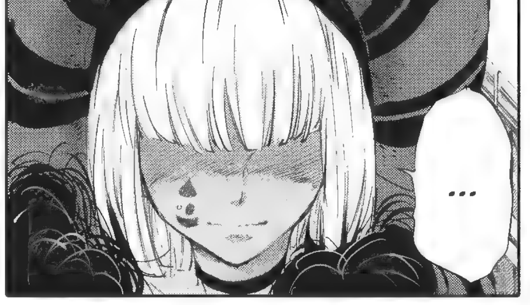



HUH?
...


ARE YOU...
...LIONTARI?


I DIDN'T REC-OGNIZE YOU...
...IN THOSE CLOTHES.


GAH!


CLENCH

...

LIONTARI, WHERE'S MY BROTHER?
YOU ACCOMPANIED HIM, RIGHT?

LET ME SEE HIM!!
HA!

HEH HEHEHEE
BROTHER?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, ORCA ISN'T YOUR BROTHER ANYMORE.

ORCA IS *MY* BROTHER.
HE LETS ME STAY CLOSE TO HIM...
...AND HE TRUSTS ME THE MOST.








HYUU
AND I CAN'T LET YOU GO...
...IF YOU'RE PRO-TECTING HIM!
FWISH
SHING
TOO SLOW!
HYUU

KRAK
!
OWW!
THNK

UHNN...
SHING
YOU'VE...
...GONE SOFT.

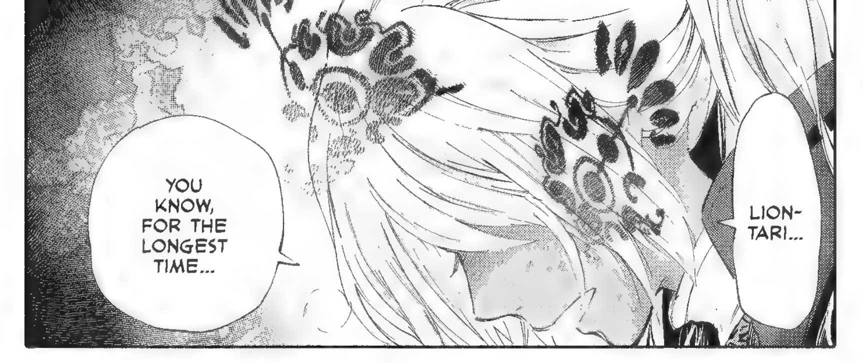

DID YOU GET ALL COZY IN FÁLAINA?
BRAIN-WASHED BY THE NATIVES...
...INTO PLAYING BEST BUDDIES, RIGHT?

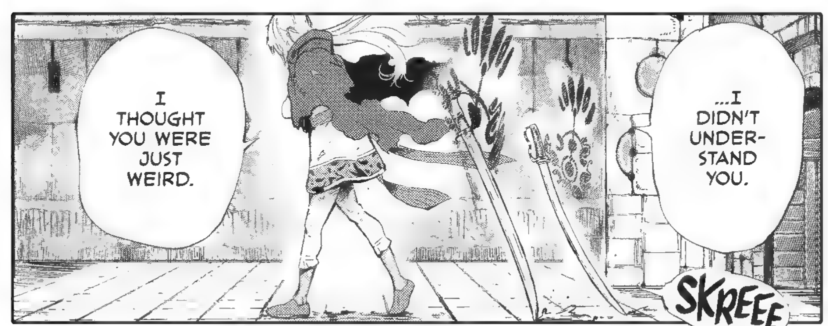

THAT SOUNDS NICE.
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO PLAY THAT GAME.


DON'T WORRY, I'M HOLDING BACK.
I WON'T *KILL* YOU.

POK

STAGGER


LION-TARI...
YOU KNOW, FOR THE LONGEST TIME...


...I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST WEIRD.
SKREEE


YOU LAUGHED TOO LOUD...
...AND GOT ANGRY FOR NO REASON.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STRANGE.


BUT I GET YOU NOW.
YOU'RE NOT STRANGE.


IT'S JUST THAT YOU WANTED SOMEONE TO LAUGH WITH YOU...
...AND NO ONE COULD.
GRAB


YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE FEELINGS...
...AND THEY TURNED INTO VIOLENCE.


TWITCH


WIBBLE



THUNK

THUNK


HOW CAN SOMEONE LIKE *YOU*...
...UNDER-STAND SOMETHING LIKE *THAT*?


YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL...
...THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE OR ME...
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS.


SKREE

YOU'RE JEALOUS, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, SO YOU WANT TO DESTROY THE CAUSE OF THAT FEELING!!

YOU'RE WRONG!!

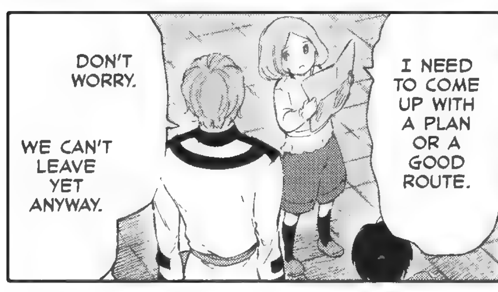
HYUUU



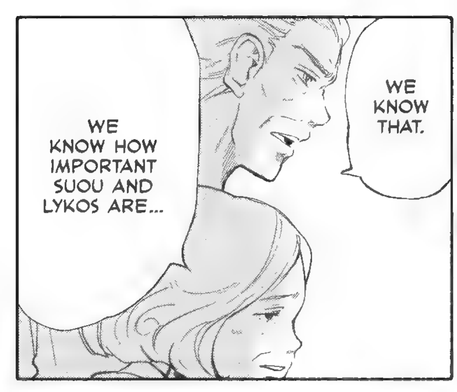
YOU...

...DON'T UNDER-STAND EVEN A GRAIN OF ME.


SORRY FOR THE DELAY...
...BUT YOU'LL BE TOO CON-SPICUPUS IF YOU HEAD DIRECTLY TO THE MUD WHALE.


I NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN OR A GOOD ROUTE.
DON'T WORRY.
WE CAN'T LEAVE YET ANYWAY.

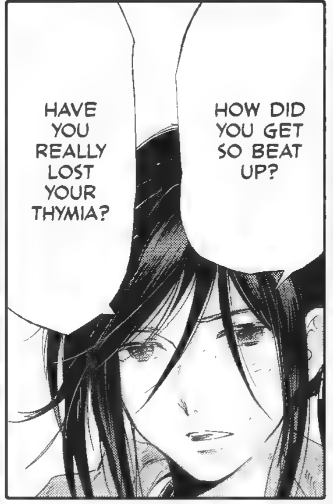

WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT MAYOR SUOU.
I'M SURE LYKOS IS HERE TOO...
WE HAVE TO FIND BOTH OF THEM.


WE KNOW THAT.
WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT SUOU AND LYKOS ARE...

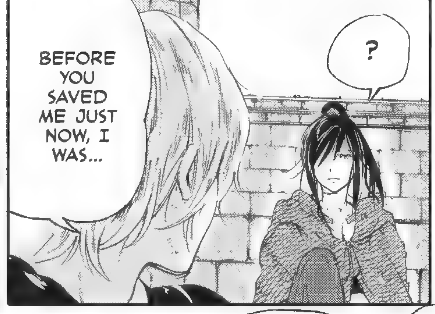

THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING IF WE'RE NOT ALL GOING.


YEAH!
IT'S ONLY THE MUD WHALE IF WE'RE ALL TOGETHER!
POMP
POMP
RIGHT, COM-MANDER?
OWWW.


WEREN'T YOU...
... WATCHING?


HOW DID YOU GET SO BEAT UP?
HAVE YOU REALLY LOST YOUR THYMIA?



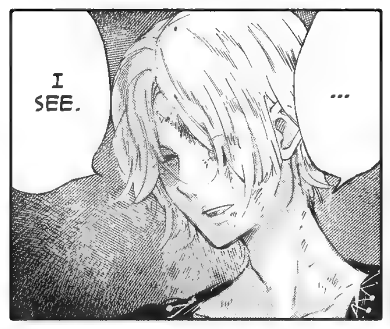

?
BEFORE YOU SAVED ME JUST NOW, I WAS...


WHAT I SAW...
...WAS YOU ABOUT TO BE SHOT.


OH...
...I USUALLY OBSERVE FOR A WHILE FIRST BEFORE I STEP IN.
STARE
Almost time.
SUOU WILL BE ANGRY IF HE HEARS THAT.


COM-MANDER!


THIS GUY'S AMAZING.
I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT HIS THYMIA IS GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER.


...
I SEE.

THANKS TO OUNI...
...WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE STREETS OF AMONLOGIA EASILY.


YOU MAY BE...
...THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING CREATURE IN THE WORLD.

WHAT IF...
...YOU ARE ONLY EVER A SOURCE OF CONFLICT?

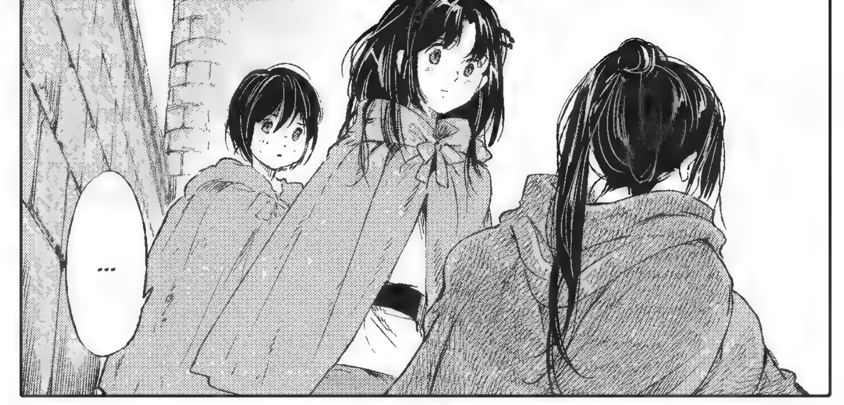





...JUST GOING TO PROTECT WHAT NIBI CARED FOR...

...AND I'M JUST GOING TO KEEP FIGHTING...

...LIKE MASOU'S SOUL TOLD ME TO.





WE ALL GOT EXCITED ABOUT OUNI'S POWER...

...BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HIS THYMIA CHANGES...

...THE FACT THAT HE'S OUR FRIEND WHO LIVES WITH US ON THE MUD WHALE NEVER CHANGES.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

...THE CASTLE'S BEEN INVADED?

TMP


WE NEED TO GET TO MY FATHER...

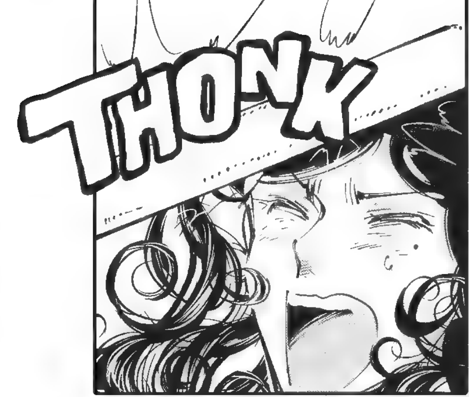

!!
DARN ...
THE CURLY-HAIRED ONE!


WHOAAAH!


WHAT? IS HE AN ENEMY?!
THAT'S SOME HEAD OF HAIR!


HUH? HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR MY HAIR?
SHAA
DO YOU WANT TO BE MY MISTRESS?


SIR DEÍKTIS?!
I KNOW!
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE WANDERING AROUND FREE?!


THONK

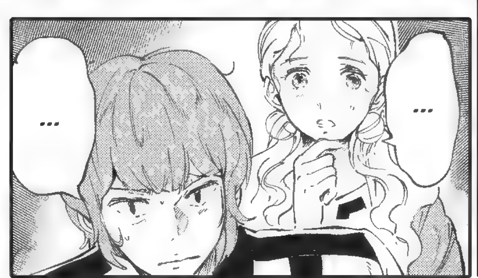

WHY ?!
HE JUST CAME OUT AND ASKED...
HOW SIMPLE ...


WAIT! SHOULD I NOT HAVE DONE THAT?!


YOU ...!

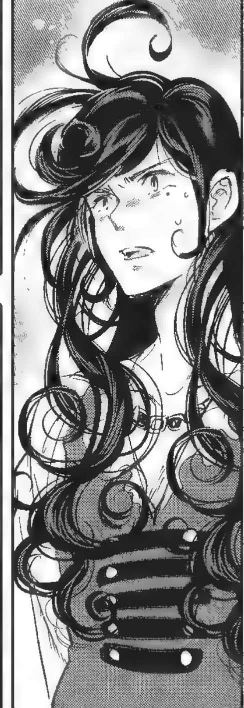

HYUU
THONK


WAIT, WAS THAT BAD?!
THEY ARE THE ENEMY, RIGHT?


...
...


...GRAB THIS IDIOT AND SWAP HIM...
...FOR THE MAYOR?

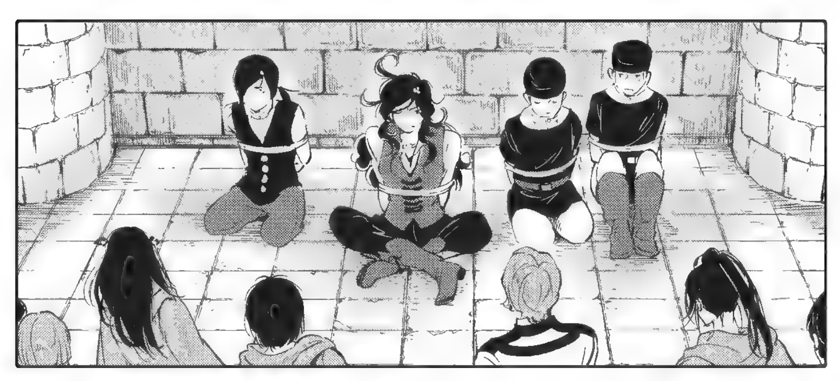
NOT LIKE WE HAVE A CHOICE.
NO... IT WAS FINE...

WHY DON'T WE...


SNAP

YANK

...





I DON'T KNOW...

IF I KNEW WHERE THE MAIDEN WAS...

...WE WOULD BE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW!!

...

I KEEP TELLING YOU, SUOU IS *A MAN.*

I FORGOT.

SHOCK

HOW CAN YOU FORGET SO QUICKLY?!



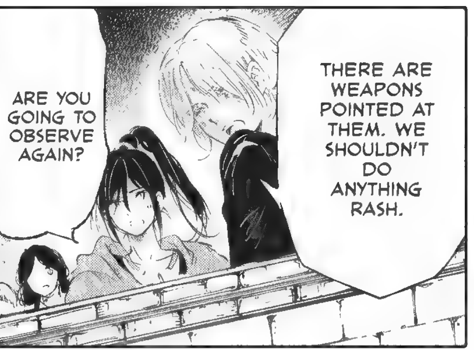




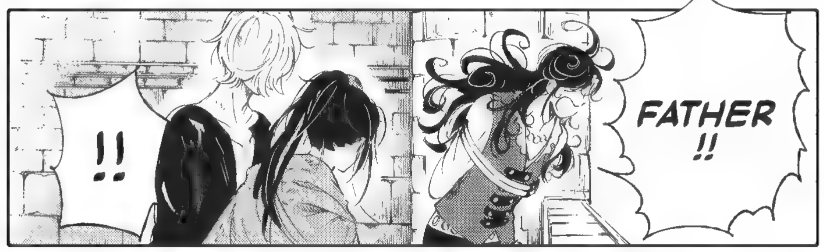
HEY, FATHER!!

F- FATHER!!

SUOU?!


THERE ARE WEAPONS POINTED AT THEM. WE SHOULDN'T DO ANYTHING RASH.
ARE YOU GOING TO OBSERVE AGAIN?


I DON'T DO IT FOR FUN.
IF YOU DON'T READ THE SITUATION, YOU CAN MAKE THINGS WORSE.


FATHER !!
!!


CHAK


...
IMPERIAL... SOLDIERS ...?


SHUDDER


KLAK
KLAK






LEAP
CHAKKI!!

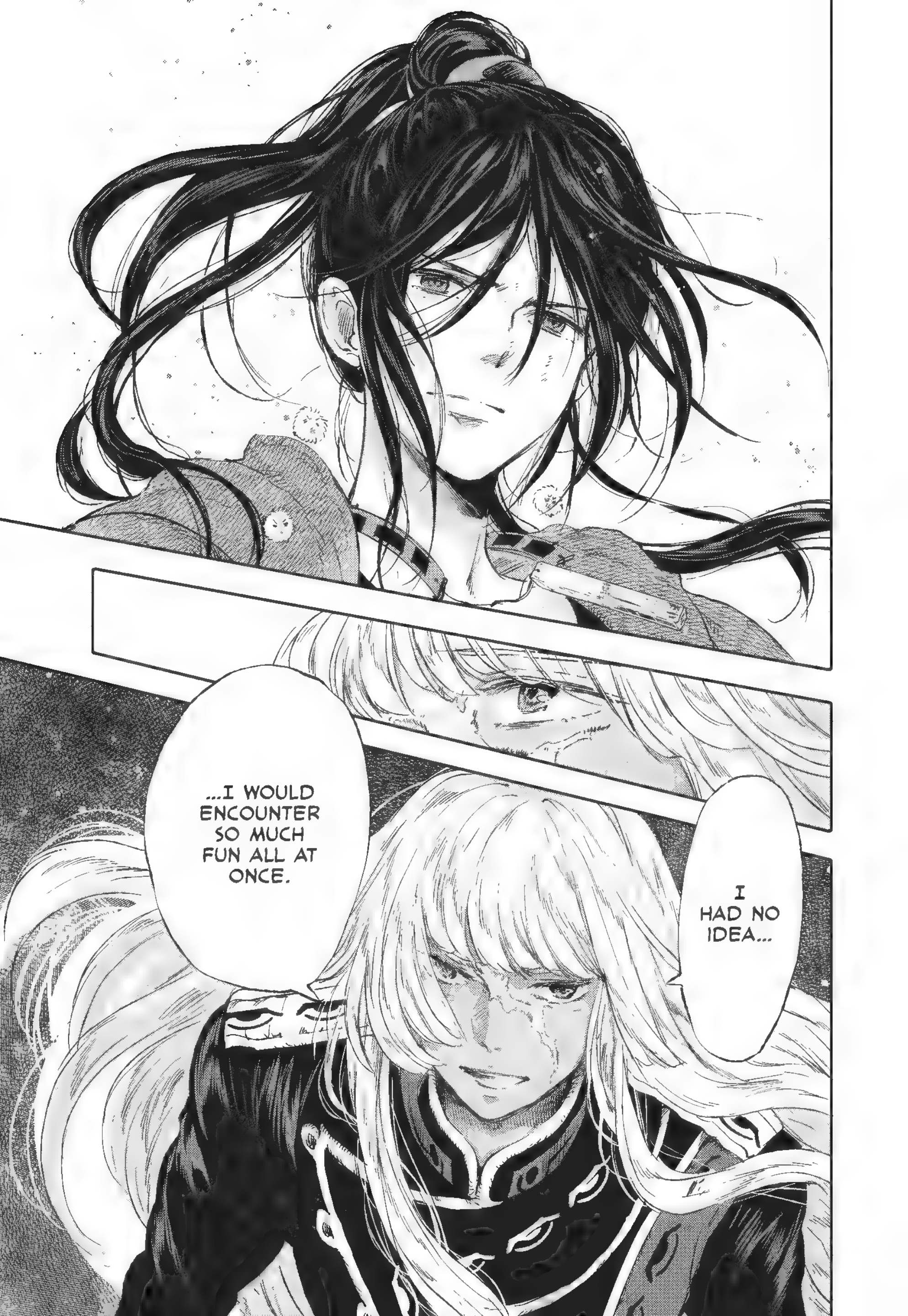
THD
GRAB
CHAKURO!


THWAK
SKRAAAH
STOP IT!
CHAKURO!!


ARE YOU...
...THE ONE I'M LOOKING FOR...?


Y-
YOU'RE...


... LYKOS ...
LYKOS'S BROTHER...


I HAD NO IDEA...
...I WOULD ENCOUNTER SO MUCH FUN ALL AT ONCE.


?!
WHAT KIND OF AURA IS THAT?



WAHHH!
AHHH!
FWIP
HEY!!

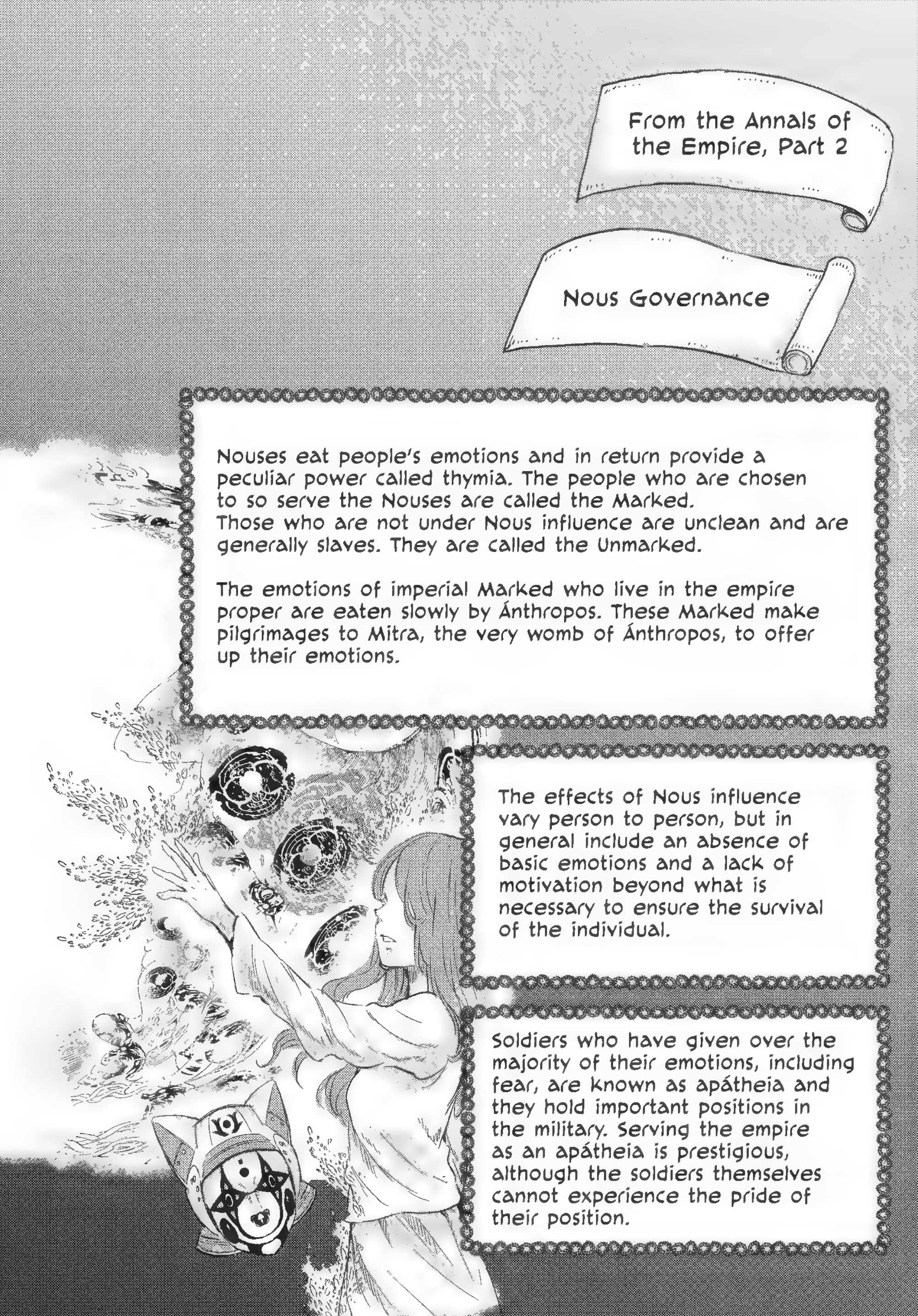

HYUU
CRASH
HYUU
HYUU
SLISH


TMP
CLENCH




I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET YOU HERE...
...DAÍMONAS OF FÁLAINA.
A Swarm of Sand -The End-
Children of the Whales volume 11 -The End-


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES


From the Annals of the Empire, Part 2
Nous Governance
Nouses eat people's emotions and in return provide a peculiar power called thymia. The people who are chosen to so serve the Nouses are called the Marked.
Those who are not under Nous influence are unclean and are generally slaves. They are called the Unmarked.
The emotions of imperial Marked who live in the empire proper are eaten slowly by Ánthropos. These Marked make pilgrimages to Mitra, the very womb of Ánthropos, to offer up their emotions.
The effects of Nous influence vary person to person, but in general include an absence of basic emotions and a lack of motivation beyond what is necessary to ensure the survival of the individual.
Soldiers who have given over the majority of their emotions, including fear, are known as apátheia and they hold important positions in the military. Serving the empire as an apátheia is prestigious, although the soldiers themselves cannot experience the pride of their position.

From the Annals of the Empire, Part 3

Nous Governance, Continued

The chaotic period before the empire rose to ascendency proved that limiting the emotions of the citizenry would allow for increased domestic growth and reduce the number of crises. Emotions became the purview of a select class of citizens.

This was achieved through the ingestion of sárka. Sárka comes from Ánthropos, and if consumed periodically, it reduces the emotional dampening effect caused by the Nouses. It is also common for sárka to diminish thymia levels. Sárka is a limited resource and is under strict control.

Social status and rank determine who is eligible to partake of sárka. Sárka eaters experience emotions, but do not allow them to get in the way of their duty to the empire. Their loyalty is absolute, despite the burden of emotions. They are to be lauded.



A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Furano	from "flannel," a soft-woven fabric traditionally made of wool
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Nashiji	a traditional Japanese crepe weave fabric
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)

Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy
Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Tonoko	the color of powdered grindstone, a pale brown
Urumi	muddy gray



Thank you so much for supporting the anime and stage versions of *Children of the Whales*. Chakuro and the others characters in the manga will keep working hard!

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion*. *Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.



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